



Thursday, September 6, 2018

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Leader says track for speedway club is 'paramount'

PLEDGE TO BRING HEATHENS HOME



Report by Luke Bartlett

THE LEADER of Dudley Council has pledged to do everything he can to find famous Black Country speedway club Cradley Heathens a permanent home in the borough.

Councillor Patrick Harley says he has been in talks with the club's bosses in efforts to find the team their own permanent track where they can have race meetings.

The team have been homeless for more than 20 years, since leaving their base at Dudley Wood, and have been sharing grounds with clubs in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Stoke in recent years.

But now Councillor Harley has said it is 'paramount' that the local authority take action to find them the Heathens somewhere to call their home – following another failed attempt just weeks ago.

Councillor Harley said: "There are two groups – the supporters group and the organisation that is Cradley speedway."

"I have met with both of them trying to find some way forward to try and get them a home back in the borough."

"I thought we had found a home a few weeks ago but unfortunately after having officers meet with the land owners, they do have a use for that land."

Search

"The search goes on to try and help the Cradley Heathens. I do realise that it is absolutely paramount to try and find them somewhere in the borough."

In their heyday, Cradley Heathens won 13 trophies in 17 years and produced seven world champions. Cradley Heathens was founded in Dudley in 1947 and competed at the top level of British speedway until 1995 when the team closed.

But the team was revived in 2010 as Dudley Heathens and competed in the National League. In 2013 the club's name changed back to Cradley Heathens.

The club, which now track shares with Wolverhampton at Monmore Green, withdrew from the National League at the end of last season and currently races only in National Trophy fixtures, sharing its riders with other clubs.

The Motor Market Cradley Heathens' next fixture is 'home' at Wolverhampton against Mildenhall Fen Tigers on Tuesday, September 11.

"The only way we could return to full league racing is by finally securing a site of our own," said club director Nigel Pearson at the start of the trophy campaign.

The comments from Councillor Harley came as part of a live Q&A session the council boss was hosting on Facebook, where he also answered questions on a range of issues, from homelessness in the borough and to illegal traveller camps.

Concern for pupils over house plan

AN APPLICATION to turn a detached house in Halesowen into a residential home for youngsters with emotional and learning difficulties has led to fears for pupils at a nearby school.

The proposal to convert the property on Springfield Road has also raised concerns about parking and traffic problems.

The application to Dudley Council would turn the five-bedroom house into a residential unit for three youngsters aged between eight and 18.

These would be young people 'experiencing developmental difficulties and problematic early life experiences including attachment disorder, emotional behaviours and moderate to low learning difficulties', according to a report.

Influence

The planning report, which is going before councillors, states that because the site is adjacent to Olive Hill Primary School residents fear young children could be affected by the actions or influence of young people with behavioural problems.

Planning officers have recommended that councillors approve the change of use and members of Dudley's development control committee will meet on September 11 to decide if the application is approved.

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TERROR

Five suspects are arrested after raids

TWO men from Birmingham were among five people arrested yesterday (Wednesday) on suspicion of membership of a banned far-right group, under anti-terrorism legislation.

Three men, a woman and a 17-year-old boy were detained on suspicion of terrorism offences following a series of raids across the country.

They are suspected of being members of banned group National Action contrary to section 11 of the Terrorism Act.

All five were being held at a police station in the West Midlands.

INTERNET

Region the first to test 5G technology

THE West Midlands has won the race to become the UK's first 5G mobile internet test bed.

According to the Digital Minister Margot James, who is also MP for Stourbridge: "5G has the potential to dramatically transform the way we go about our daily lives."

The region beat competition from 18 other areas to land the £50 million deal, which will see it get super-fast connectivity.

TRAFFIC

Commuters face a year of delays

PARADISE Circus in Birmingham is shut to traffic until next summer as part of the latest phase of Midland Metro works, leaving commuters facing diversions to get around the city.

The main road is closed in both directions, potentially causing gridlock at busy times, and it promises to be anything but paradise for drivers.

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COUNTDOWN TO CONTEST



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Demolition likely at Dudley Hippodrome

DUDLEY College is to table a bid to take over the site of local landmark the Dudley Hippodrome – resulting in the former variety theatre on Castle Hill being bulldozed.

Education bosses have had their sights on the land for months and are now developing firm plans to use the site for the continued expansion of the college.

A bid for the site is expected to be lodged this month and, if successful, would end hopes of rescuing the venue and reviving it as a theatre.

Dudley Council invited companies to submit 'expressions of interest' in the former bingo hall in July following the collapse of a community-led bid

to re-open the 1930s-built venue as a theatre. In its heyday it hosted such stars as Laurel and Hardy, George Formby, Ken Dodd and Bruce Forsyth.

A college spokesman said: "The college is interested in developing the facility and with a number of partners we are working on a proposal for consideration."

Developing

The college has acknowledged it had an interest in the site but it is the first time it has publicly stated its intentions for developing it. It is understood the college would have no interest in retaining the Castle Hill building.

Education bosses are keen to continue the rapid growth of the college, which has become one of the most respected post-16 learning centres in the region under the leadership of principal Lowell Williams.

Hopes the Hippodrome could be saved were all-but dashed last year by the new Conservative council leadership. Council leader Patrick Harley said he wanted to draw a line under the Hippodrome issue 'once and for all'.

The building stands derelict and has not been used since 2009. Thousands had signed a petition to save the building but the presence of dangerous asbestos added to the costs.

Planners to visit site proposed for cemetery

A **HUGE** new cemetery will be built opposite Rowley Regis Crematorium to provide much-needed new burial space, under plans set to go before councillors.

Planning officials are due to visit a vast site backing onto homes on Powke Lane, where council bosses want the new cemetery to be created.

The land, next to Powke Lane Industrial Estate, has been identified to provide burial space and is just a short distance from the crematorium, which recently underwent a £1.3 million revamp. A new car park would also be created to serve the new cemetery.

Sandwell Council chiefs have been desperately searching for land to create burial space.

Planning committee members are due to visit the site this week and a decision on whether to give it the go-ahead is expected in early October.

However, the land, which is currently open green space, is popular with dog-walkers and its possible loss has sparked anger.

CCTV

Documents with the application said: "The current application is to change the use of part of Powke Lane open space to a cemetery and will include site remediation works – widening of the existing access of Powke Lane, erection of an office building with toilets and an operation yard, creation of a car park and associated works including CCTV, lighting and landscaping."

Rowley Regis councillor Susan Eaves supports the plan. "We need a new cemetery. We will run out of space in a few years," she said. "I know there are a lot of people who are up in arms about it but we need to have it somewhere."

Rowley Regis Crematorium, which is one of the main cemeteries serving the Sandwell and Dudley area, was modernised as part of a major facelift back in 2016.

Works included upgrading the chapel and the creation of a new reception area and car park.

Ozzy rocks back to Brum on final tour

ROCK legend Ozzy Osbourne has announced a hometown show as part of his final world tour.

The former Black Sabbath frontman, 69, will play six shows in the UK including his home city of Birmingham – at the Genting Arena on February 9 – before finishing with a show at London's O2 Arena on February 11.

Osbourne said: "I'm looking at this final tour as being a huge celebration for my fans and anyone who has enjoyed my music over the past five decades."

Support is from Judas Priest.

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Police step up church patrols after drug reports

POLICE have launched 'high profile' patrols following an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour and drug-taking in the grounds of Halesowen's parish church.

West Midlands Police has stepped up its presence at St John the Baptist Church, in High Street, following a spate of incidents.

Council chiefs say the issues have been part of a 'long running' problem for the church.

Hilary Bills, deputy mayor and ward councillor for Halesowen North, said: "It is the cemetery. It has been a long running issue. We have people that have taken to sitting on benches outside of the church and having a drink."

Police have issued a warning that anyone found engaging in anti-social behaviour or drug-taking on the site will be 'dealt with accordingly'.

A police spokesperson said: "High profile police patrols are currently under way at St John the Baptist Church following increasing anti-social behaviour and drug use within the grounds."

Rev Canon Dominic Melville, vicar at St John's, said: "I think the initiative, this increase in police, is about saying we are taking an interest in what happens in this area. It is a space that belongs to this community and it needs to be safe for this community."

Music night to focus on scandal

A DUDLEY writer is to host a night of comedy, music and poetry with a serious message.

Greg Stokes will be highlighting the contaminated blood scandal in the NHS during the event at The Lamp Tavern, High Street, on Friday, September 21, from 8pm. Admission £3 on the door.

The evening with Greg Stokes and Friends will take place three days before the public inquiry begins into the scandal which saw thousands of people with haemophilia and associated conditions given transfusions of contaminated blood clotting factor. Many have since developed and died from HIV and hepatitis C. There have been claims of a cover up over how much doctors knew about the dangers.

Homes approved

HOMES may be built on land in Dudley under plans given a green light by planners. Dudley Council approved a scheme, subject to conditions, to build four homes between Regent House and Greystone Passage.

Just days before your chance to vote



THERE are just days to go until voting begins in the Express & Star's Baby of the Year competition.

More than 750 little ones were photographed by snapper Andrea Powell at intu Merry Hill and the Mander Centre in Wolverhampton.

Families were invited to choose the perfect picture to feature in a 24-page supplement, in next Wednesday's Express & Star (September 12), when people will get their chance to vote for their favourites.

Parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts will have the opportunity to

vote for their winner by collecting tokens printed in our sister daily, the Express & Star. Tokens will be available to cut out of the newspaper from then until Saturday, October 13.

Some days will also feature bumper bonus tokens, with quadruple token editions, and even 10 available to collect on other days.

There are some serious prizes on offer across four age categories, and a bonus for the overall winner. There will be a £500 prize for the winner in each of the following categories - 0-9 months, 10-18 months, 19-35 months,

and 3-5 years - and a £250 bonus for the overall winner. It is the first year the Express & Star has run the competition.

Once you've picked, cut out the vote tokens and complete a Voting Tokens Return Form. Tokens can be sent in batches or together in one envelope after the last one has been printed, but a form must be included each time.

The deadline for returning tokens is October 19. Find out more by visiting the website <https://www.babyexpressandstar.com>

TV star Ross goes on raids with armed police

ROSS Kemp's new documentary following armed West Midlands Police officers will be on TV screens tonight (Thursday).

Ross Kemp and the Armed Police will take viewers behind the scenes with the region's firearms officers in footage filmed across the Black Country and Birmingham earlier this year.

Former EastEnders actor Kemp was spotted several times in the region during filming - including at McDonald's restaurants in Bentley Bridge, Wolverhampton and Stourbridge. He also posed for photos with Walsall and Wolverhampton Force Response officers.

The show, which examines how armed police are dealing with the rise in gun crime in the region, will premier on ITV at 9pm on September 6 and then will be available on catch up.

In the documentary, Kemp dons a bullet-proof vest, accompanies the police on house raids and embeds himself with the team, while he also meets gun smugglers who claim the police have lost control of illegal arms importation.

Gang

Kemp also meets the families of victims of gun violence, including the mother of a 14-year-old who was gunned down last year in a gang-related incident, and visits the National Ballistics Intelligence Service where seized guns are stored.

The actor turned documentary maker accompanied the West Midlands Police Operational Support Unit and also worked with the British Transport Police, Northumbrian Police and South Yorkshire Police in the making of the documentary.

Kemp said on Twitter: "Coming to ITV on Thursday 6th September at 9pm, my new documentary, Ross Kemp and The Armed Police.

"A year in the making, hope you can watch."

Earlier in the year Kemp hit out at reports that claimed he'd found Birmingham more terrifying than Afghanistan, describing the articles as 'fake news'.

The 54-year-old said "Saying I wore the same body armour working with armed police in Birmingham as I did in Afghanistan has been turned



Ross Kemp followed armed officers around the Black Country and Birmingham for his new TV documentary

into headlines saying it was more terrifying and shocking filming in Birmingham than in Afghanistan?! This is fake news and, I think, insulting to those who served in Afghanistan."

The actor turned investigative journalist received rave reviews for his 2004 documentary series Ross Kemp on Gangs that explored modern gang culture in the UK.

He followed this up with a number of popular

series that included Ross Kemp in Afghanistan and Ross Kemp: Extreme World.

Figures released by the Home Office show the number of police firearms operations across the West Midlands has increased more in just a single year than in any other region in the country.

Armed police were called to 3,312 incidents in 2017/18 - up 53 per cent from the year before when there were 2,167.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hub is one-stop shop for carers

A NEW one-stop shop for carers has opened in Dudley. Run by Dudley Council, Dudley Carers Hub provides support, advice and information to carers living in the borough.

It has been set up to improve the lives of local carers who provide practical, personal or emotional support to a family member or friend due to their illness, disability, frailty or addiction.

It aims to ensure they receive all of the practical help, advice and support that they need to ease their caring responsibilities.

Support on offer includes financial and legal advice, accessing financial help, emotional and wellbeing support, respite services, support planning, social groups, as well as specialist support for young carers and parent carers.

People can visit the hub in Wellington Road, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or call them on 01384 818723, email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/carers

Leader refutes Coseley criticism

CLAIMS that Coseley is being used as a 'dumping ground' have been dismissed by a council boss.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harvey rejected comments made by residents over about plans for a rehab hostel and a council-run travellers' site. Charity Expectations UK have submitted proposals to build a 65-bed room hostel for men on Bay Street. Police have objected to the plan.

Addressing claims that Coseley was a 'dumping ground', Councillor Harvey said: "That is absolute rubbish. That is not true in any way at all."

Delay warning as lights installed

MOTORISTS are being warned to face delays as temporary traffic lights are installed on a Tipton road.

The 24-hour signals were being installed in Locarno Road this week while Cadent Gas carry out work in the area. The lights are due to be removed by September 20.

Zoo 'farm barn' home to gecko hatchlings

DUDLEY Zoo has welcomed three new additions to its farm barn exhibit.

Three gecko hatchlings born in the zoo's reptile house have now taken up residence. Two tiny Standing's day geckos born on August 7 and 10 and a Tokay gecko that hatched on May 7 have moved to a special hatching area. The farm barn opened in August 2017 as part of a £295,000 revamp.

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4 Praise for children's service from watchdog

DUDLEY Council's children's services have been praised for its progress by Government watchdogs despite warnings that social workers are struggling with workloads.

Ostfeds' findings have been welcomed by the council's cabinet member with responsibility for children who said it showed the authority was improving services for vulnerable youngsters and young people.

Responding to a letter reporting on Ofsted's latest monitoring visit, Cllr Angus Lees, said: "We are pleased with the findings of the monitoring visit, which demonstrate we are continuing to move in the right direction to transform services."

"I'm particularly pleased it makes reference to the good work of our social workers and staff, who work tirelessly to help the children in our borough who need it the most."

Inspectors also observed social work practice and praised leaders and senior managers, saying "clear strategic plans" were in place to further improve services in Dudley.

Inspectors reported they "did not see any children or young people at risk of significant harm" during their visit.

But the inspectors also found that high caseloads were affecting its ability to recruit and retain staff.

A full inspection will take place later this year.

Beans bonanza

DUDLEY Zoo chimps have got a treat thanks to gardeners Laura Hamilton and her mother Pat. They produced a bumper crop of runner beans on their Northfield allotment and donated their surplus for the primates.

Help us make streets safer, says police chief

DUDLEY'S new police chief has vowed to get out on the beat and not have her feet stuck under a desk as she takes on her latest challenge.

Chief Superintendent Sally Bourner has taken charge of Dudley as she marks 28 years of service with West Midlands Police.

Her appointment coincides with the results of a survey by The Chronicle's sister newspaper with the Express & Star's crime survey revealing that more than half of readers do not feel safe and two thirds never see police on patrol in their area. Around 10,000 people responded to the survey in just two weeks.

Ch Supt Bourner said she doesn't shy away from this, saying: "Our most important relationship of all is our relationship with the people."

She said of the survey: "It makes me sad if that is how people feel with police because that neighbourhood relationship is almost the front door into the entirety of what we do within policing."

Challenges

"In terms of presence, I would say we are significantly smaller than we were. Every force is significantly smaller, therefore we do the maths that means there are fewer officers and PCSOs out on the ground."

"One of the biggest challenges we face at the moment is how we ensure that we deliver on the here-and-now imperative to deal with citizens' needs while at the same time working with our neighbourhood teams and with our wider partnership and prevent that harm happening in the first instance to stem the relentless demand coming in. "Our relationship with partners around prevention and intervention is crucial. The police are the public and the public are the police."

"We cannot do what we do without the public being our eyes and ears which is why our neighbourhood teams are so crucial, they are the face and voice on the ground with local people."



Dudley's new police boss Chief Superintendent Sally Bourner has 28 years experience as an officer

She continued: "As commander of the borough, one of the things I am going to regularly do is get out and about, not having my feet under the desk but actually getting out on the beat with colleagues to understand the issues they are grappling with and listening to local people." Prior to this role, she led the region's force contact centre which dealt with between 6,000 and 7,000 calls a day.

She became a chief superintendent in 2011, making her one of the most experienced in the West Midlands, and has previously worked in Wolver-

hampton as well as being a commander in Solihull.

She added: "We have to find better ways to work with the public and our partners to prioritise the two things that are fundamental to what we do – focusing on offenders and actually protecting the most vulnerable people from harm."

"We are one big team at the end of the day and we are driven to help make our communities and the lives of our citizens better."

"We cannot do that on our own."

NEWS IN BRIEF

RAF parade to attract a crowd

CROWDS are expected for an annual veterans' parade next weekend as the Royal Air Force marks its centenary.

The Dudley branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will host the Battle of Britain memorial parade and service on Sunday, September 16.

The parade will be made up of up to 100 veterans, Royal Air Force cadet squadrons and serving personnel stationed at RAF Cosford. It will be followed by a service at Dudley Parish Church in Vicar Street.

The public are invited to join the service and watch the march through the town centre. The event, attended by the mayor, starts at 11.30am.

New season of local history talks

SELDLEY Local History Society's new season of talks begins on Thursday, September 13. The meeting at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, will feature Barbara Price, who has carried out extensive research into 750 Dudley soldiers in the First World War. It costs £2 for visitors and annual membership costs £5 and gives access to all the talks.

Back to Tudor times at historic old hall

CRADLEY Heath's Haden Old Hall goes back to Tudor times next Sunday, September 16. The Terrific Tudors event runs from noon to 4pm with free entry.

The Friends of Haden Hill Estate are putting on falconry displays, music and historical re-enactments, including a visit from a Tudor doctor.

A tour of the old hall cellars takes place on September 13, but places must be booked. Call (01384) 569444.

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Halesbury School
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B62 9DR
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Dawn 07859 010175

Old Hill
Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Rd
7pm
Sarah 07815 071982

TUESDAY
Halesbury School
Feldon Lane, Halesowen
B62 9DR
7pm
Dawn 07859 010175

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7pm
Maddie 07815 132320
Christian Fellowship
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Lorraine 07936 217340
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Romina 07432 558596

Liberal Club

Upper High St, Cradley Heath
5pm & 7pm

Romina 07432 558596

St Peters Church Hall

Hiplands Road, halesowen

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Elaine 0121 5506414

Stag & 3 Horse Shoes

Top of Mucklow Hill

Halesowen Rd

7pm

Ellie 07970 600763

Netherend Neighbourhood Centre

Mogul Lane, Cradley

5.15pm & 7.15pm

Amanda 07862 274058

FRIDAY

Combow Hall
Halesowen Library
Level 2, next to Asda,
Halesowen
8am, 10am & 12pm

Michaela 07901 583236

Dudley Golf Club

Turners Hill
Rowley Regis, B65 9DP

9.30am

Maddie 07815 132320

Netherend Neighbourhood Centre

Mogul Lane, Cradley

9.30am

Amanda 07862 274058

SATURDAY

Combow Hall
Halesowen Library, Level 2, next
to Asda, Halesowen
9.15am

Michaela 07901 583236

Lightwoods Primary School

(off Clent Rd), Oldbury B68 9ER
8am + 10am

Maddie 07815 132320

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PEOPLE are being urged to donate their unwanted pallets to help build a huge bonfire at Himley Park, which will be the centre of the borough's fireworks spectacular on November 3.

Bosses at Dudley Council are appealing for help from local companies who can donate unbroken wooden pallets to build the giant bonfire.

The 'hero' themed bonfire and firework display is one of the biggest in the region and a 20 per cent discount is available to people who book online in advance.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The fireworks and bonfire display at Himley is the largest council-run display in the country. Every year the event is tremendously supported by local companies donating huge numbers of pallets."

Pallets cannot be collected but will be accepted at Himley Hall from Monday. Companies that are able to deliver should call (01384) 817834.

Online, standard adult £10, standard child and senior citizen £5.50, family (two adults, two children) £24.

For the first time the event will have a premium viewing area on the South Lawns. These premium tickets will be limited and only available online. Full details can be found at www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/bonfire or [Facebook @HimleyHall](https://Facebook.com/HimleyHall)

All night running at SVR autumn gala

THE Severn Valley Railway's annual autumn steam gala will run from September 20 to 23 this year.

The announcement was made at this year's Insomnia Gaming Festival held at the NEC in Birmingham on August 25 and 26. Bate and Dunne made an appearance at the event where it was announced they would be part of this year's game.

The Twitter account for the game said: "We're happy to announce that NXT UK Superstars Pete Dunne and Tyler Bate will be part of the official roster for the very first time in this year's game!" The game is released on October 5.

Rise in number of children exploited by drug gangs

'I'D urge parents to know where their children are, engage with them and look out for new items they may bring home such as phones, clothes or money.'

A warning to families from a Black Country police sergeant as a new wave of child exploitation is emerging across the West Midlands. Children as young as 12 are being groomed to work as drug mules by dealers in almost 100 gang operations in the West Midlands.

Dudley-based Sergeant Cliff Tomkinson says he is aware of some children who have been targeted by drug gangs as part of criminal activity known as County Lines.

In the West Midlands there are an estimated 90 of the operations, which involve children carrying out street deals on behalf of drug gangs looking to expand networks across the region.

The youths are often left to operate from a stranger's house taken over by the gang - a practice known as cuckooing. The use of juveniles, Sgt Tomkinson says, is to evade police attention.

Trafficking

The warning comes as figures published last week show the number of children referred for human trafficking and slavery has almost doubled across the Black Country and Staffordshire. They show child referrals for the first six months of this year by Wolverhampton council totalled 18. Sandwell Council referred 17, Walsall 12, Staffordshire six and Dudley two.

Sgt Tomkinson said: "It's distressing to think this is taking place. The children are chosen because they are less likely to be identified and the drug dealer cannot afford to be caught."

He added: "We need to look out for our young people, ensure they are safe and do not fall into the such traps."

A total of 16 Homebase stores have been shut this year and the business has also axed 303 jobs at its head office in Milton Keynes.

Two Black Country stores avoid the axe

HOMEBASE has been given the green light to press ahead with a wave of store closures that will see 42 DIY outlets shut, affecting 1,500 jobs. But the Black Country escapes the axe.

While Solihull and Droitwich will lose their branches in the latest round of closures, the stores in Wolverhampton and Oldbury have been spared, as have branches in Cannock, Kidderminster, Telford and Birmingham.

The retailer is closing the stores via a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA), a controversial insolvency procedure used by struggling firms.

More than 95 per cent of landlords to the struggling chain voted to approve the proposal at a meeting on Friday, staving off the immediate threat of administration.

A total of 16 Homebase stores have been shut this year and the business has also axed 303 jobs at its head office in Milton Keynes.

Tyler grapples with video success



Dudley-born wrestler Tyler Bate as he appears in video game WWE 2K19

A RISING star wrestler from Dudley has been added to the World Wrestling Entertainment's (WWE) latest edition of their popular video game.

Netherton 21-year-old Tyler Bate has been recreated in digital form for WWE 2K19, the latest instalment in the annual video game series by the wrestling organisation.

As one half of tag team 'Moustache Mountain', regulars in the WWE's UK brand NXT, Bate has been added to the game in advance of its upcoming release, alongside Chelmsley Wood's Pete Dunne.

Bate said: "In such a short time in WWE I have experienced so many incredible moments, becoming the first ever WWE United Kingdom Champion, NXT Tag Team Champion and now I can add being featured in WWE 2K19 to that list."

"There's a lot of dream matches to be made, and I'm excited for the fans to see who they put me up against."

The announcement was made at this year's Insomnia Gaming Festival held at the NEC in Birmingham on August 25 and 26. Bate and Dunne made an appearance at the event where it was announced they would be part of this year's game.

The Twitter account for the game said: "We're happy to announce that NXT UK Superstars Pete Dunne and Tyler Bate will be part of the official roster for the very first time in this year's game!" The game is released on October 5.

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Hard-up families need free buses

THE first duty of local and regional government should be to defend the interests of the poor and not the rich elite, like them, who can well look after themselves.

Instead, these councillors, MPs and MEPs see their top priority is to provide prestigious, grossly extravagant and wasteful Metro tram and Sprint bus schemes on the back of the billions going into HS2.

These people see their top priority to provide free car parking for two hours at council car parks. Low income families do not have cars.

Working shoppers miss out

A shopkeeper spent over £1,500 on cans of beer, etc, that was on offer at a well-known supermarket, to sell on leaving the shelves bare.

This always happens. People who shop after work have not got a chance. These greedy people are rubbing their hands at our expense and it shouldn't be allowed.

It's time to speak out and let them know your concerns.

JUDITH FISHER

Tividale

It's bananas!

IT is claimed that fruit and vegetable prices will rise but if the public would accept carrots, cucumbers, potatoes and tomatoes that are not perfectly shaped – instead of two million tonnes going to landfill each year – there would be no shortages or price increases. People demand vegetables that are perfect and then cut them up. What does shape matter?

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Our local and regional politicians see another top priority is to spend many hundreds of millions of pounds on expensive tram extensions and Sprint buses.

Low income families need existing buses that have free fares. Over 60s like me have had them for over ten years. The money from scrapping tram extensions and Sprint buses should be used to give everyone free bus travel with bus lanes and traffic light priority to speed them on their way.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.



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If we cannot reach a resolution contact ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

AUDRA PERKINS

With reference to the letter from Robert W White re the Blue Badge. My youngest son is autistic and doesn't have a Blue Badge because of Government cuts when they moved the goals posts again.

Autism does very much need a Blue Badge for when the child has sensory overload they can be out of control. My Autistic son is now 6ft and in many ways is quite childlike and has no danger awareness. The need to be as close to the shop or whatever we are visiting is vital.

My son doesn't have a badge but as soon as they make them available I will be applying. The stress levels for the parents also must be considered. Some people have more than one autistic child and this is a lifeline.

Wordsley

Autism and badge parking

IN reply to comments regarding Blue Badges been given to sufferers of autism. My five-year-old grandson suffers from autism and after brain surgery last year to relieve seizures is now partially sighted. He is unable to walk far unassisted. Mr White wonders why SUVs are parked in disabled bays. In my daughter's case this is so she can fit my grandson's specialised large pushchair into her car.

MARIE PICKERING

Halesowen

Puzzled by bus number changes

WHAT do the National Express bus company think they are gaining by altering bus route numbers?

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And what has happened

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NHS
Dudley
Clinical Commissioning Group

8 Ten in Dudley die waiting for a transplant

SEVENTY-TWO people from the Black Country and Staffordshire have died while waiting for an organ transplant in the last five years – including ten from Dudley.

The shocking statistics have been revealed today by NHS Blood and Transplant in a desperate bid to get more donors during Organ Donation Week.

NHS Blood and Transplant says that although the number of donors is increasing and the waiting lists are reducing, 6,000 patients in the UK are currently hoping for a transplant. More people in the West Midlands are being urged to join the register.

Nationally, around three people a day died in need of an organ.

Emma Lawson, a specialist nurse organ donation team manager, who covers hospitals in the West Midlands, said: "It's tragic so many people from the West Midlands have died waiting for a transplant. What is shocking is that many of those lives could have been saved, had more families agreed to donate organs. People are dying every day because some families are not talking about donation."

"We don't want people to die because of a fatal complacency, that because you know you want to be an organ donor you presume your loved ones know it too. Please, let your family know your decision and ask them if they want to be donors."

Car hit street light

A CAR crashed into a lamp post outside a row of shops in the Black Country, smashing plant pots. The red SEAT was embedded in the lamp post after the crash in Colley Gate on Saturday night. Emergency services were sent to the scene but it is believed no one was badly hurt. The crash took place outside Chainmakers Fish and Chip shop and the Nisa Local.

Drunken ex smashed up former partner's TV with a hammer

Cash machine blown apart by thieves

TWO men blew up a cash machine outside a Cradley shop, stealing hundreds of pounds in the early hours.

They targeted the cashpoint outside the Nisa store in Colley Gate, using a gas bottle to detonate the machine before stealing the cash from inside the wrecked machine. The pair then fled the scene in a white car towards Lye.

The latest incident marks the second time the Nisa store has been targeted by criminals in a fortnight.

West Midlands Police has now launched an investigation following the theft, which is believed to have taken place at around 2.30am on Friday.

The cash machine has since been boarded up.

Andrew Newton, who has been manager of the Nisa store for the last four years, said the crooks were seen on CCTV to move out of the way of the machine before they detonated the gas.

The 41-year-old said: "It was about half past two in the morning. It was a white Fiesta that pulled up outside. They got a gas bottle out and it stood around about chest height.

"They linked it to the cash machine and pumped it with gas and promptly blew it up. It was obviously very dangerous. They moved out of the way before the gas was detonated. There was a bit of fire.

"I do not think they got much money really – it was in the hundreds."



Blown up – the wrecked cash machine outside a supermarket in Cradley

A JILTED father-of-two went on terrifying drunken wrecking sprees at the Stourbridge home of his former partner.

The pair had split up and Sean Payne was banned from having any contact with the woman after beating her up on March 27 last year but repeatedly broke the restraining order this summer, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The victim heard the sound of breaking glass at her Shenstone Road home

Food bank in appeal for more supplies

STOCK levels are 'critically low' at the Black Country Foodbank, which has launched an urgent appeal for donations.

It comes amid a growing demand for three-day emergency food supplies as more people struggle to make ends meet.

The charity provided a total of 182,000 meals between April 2017 to March 2018. Of these, 60,020 were for children, an increase of five per cent on the previous year.

More than 6,750 children are expected to have been fed by the food bank during the six-week school summer holidays.

The increase in people seeking help has left supplies low and the charity is now appealing for schools, churches and other organisations to support them with their traditional harvest time events. See www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk website.

Detox

Mr Matthew Brook, prosecuting, said the defendant, who had a drink problem, accidentally hit her on the side, throwing the hammer with which he smashed a new £500 TV. He handed himself in to police on July 10.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said: "He has been struggling with alcohol addiction and this led to them splitting up. He has been through seven weeks of detox before being held in custody following his arrest."

"Drink has been the trigger and, if he can stay away from it with the help of probation and other services, his offending will end."

Payne, of The Broadway, Norton, admitted harassment, criminal damage and breaching the restraining order. He was given a ten-month jail term suspended for two years plus 200 hours of unpaid work. He was told to pay £140 compensation and the restraining order was extended.

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Charity to launch first suicide text helpline

A MENTAL health charity is appealing to businesses to help raise £40,000 to set up a new text helpline aimed at reducing suicide rates.

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group based in West Bromwich wants to launch its National Suicide Text Prevention Line Service.

The charity, which is working to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health issues, believes a text service will save lives by giving people in need an easier way to seek help.

Chief executive Monica Shafiq said: "From our research and from talking to the people who use our services, we know that talking is one of the hardest things to do."

"People prefer to communicate by social media, text and email. Opening up and saying you need help is a difficult thing to do. Taking away a voice and face removes that barrier."

Effective

The charity also believes that a text service would be more effective for teenagers and young people as well as men under the age of 45. Current statistics show that more men under the age of 45 die as a result of suicide than road traffic accidents, HIV and assaults combined.

Suicide is a growing problem which can happen to men, women and children of all ages, backgrounds and religions, all races.

Every day 15 people die in the UK due to suicide and each death is said to affect 150 people left behind. "The text service will save lives. Even if it just helps one person and saves a life – you can't put a price on that," said Mrs Shafiq.

"Suicide is something that people



Chief executive of the Kaleidoscope Plus Group, Monica Shafiq

don't talk about. It's still taboo. We want to try to eliminate that by raising awareness and having services like this," she added. The charity hopes to launch the service, which will cost £120,000, before Christmas as this is traditionally a time when more people are in need.

"Christmas is a very happy time for lots of people but for it's a really sad time for others. It's a difficult time of year," said Mrs Shafiq.

There is no available funding for this type of service so the charity is looking to attract the support and investment of responsible businesses

and organisations who can help. It also has a number of events planned to raise funds including its Annual Charity Gala Ball at Birmingham Library on November 15 with sponsorship packages available.

The charity is also launching a suicide bereavement support service ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on Monday, September 10.

Any businesses interested in supporting the charity can contact Monica on 0121 565 5605.

For more information about the charity and its services go online to www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk

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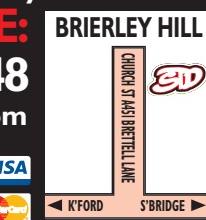
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This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

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April King has over 50 offices across the UK.

Officers will be checking motorist vision

EVERY motorist stopped by police officers in the West Midlands during September will be required to take an eye test.

A crackdown has been launched and motorists stopped by roads officers will be required to read a number plate from 20 metres. Anyone who fails will have their driving licence revoked.

Sergeant Rob Heard, representing forces taking part in the campaign,

said: "Not being able to see a hazard or react to a situation quickly enough can have catastrophic consequences."

Under current rules, the only mandatory examination of vision takes place during the practical test. Once someone has obtained their licence, it is up to them to tell the DVLA if they have a problem with their eyesight.

Dangerous driver who led police on chase is spared jail

Tai's brush with Baggies



Portrait artist Tai-Shan Schierenberg in his studio, wearing his Baggies top

ALBION fans had the chance to view paintings created by an acclaimed artist as he followed the club during their rollercoaster season.

Tai Shan Schierenberg joined the Baggies for their 2017/18 season, which saw West Brom relegated from the Premier League, creating a series of impressive portraits along the way.

He went into the project, which was filmed for a Channel 4 documentary, as a football novice but ended up developing an affection for the club as they battled against the drop.

Potentially deadly asthma attacks set to rise with return to school

ASTHMA UK warns that as children go back to school there will be a rise in asthma attacks.

Potentially deadly asthma attacks among children will rise sharply as they return to school after the summer holidays, says the charity.

Asthma UK said that after the summer break, it expects asthma attacks among youngsters to double.

Its analysis of health data from across the UK found that there was a 174 per cent increase in emergency asthma admissions among youngsters in the month after they went back to school in 2016.

Figures from 2016 show that in the month before school there were 884

emergency admissions for asthma, compared to 2,421 in the month after schools returned for the autumn term.

The charity has urged parents of children with the condition to be watchful of their children so they can spot symptoms before an attack.

Routine

Asthma UK said that the rise may be attributed to a lack of routine over the summer holidays which means parents might not always remember to give their child their preventer medicine.

It said the medication is vital as without it, children could potentially suffer an asthma attack triggered by

cold and flu viruses – some of which they will be exposed to after returning to school.

Dr Andy Whittamore, clinical lead at Asthma UK, said: "Going back to school should be an exciting time for children, but many could end up in hospital fighting for life after an asthma attack."

"This is extremely distressing for a child and their parent. It could be avoided if parents know how to spot their child's asthma is getting worse and know what to do if their child is having an asthma attack."

For information and support see www.asthma.org.uk/back-to-school

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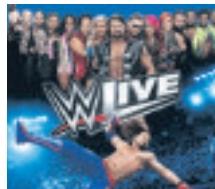
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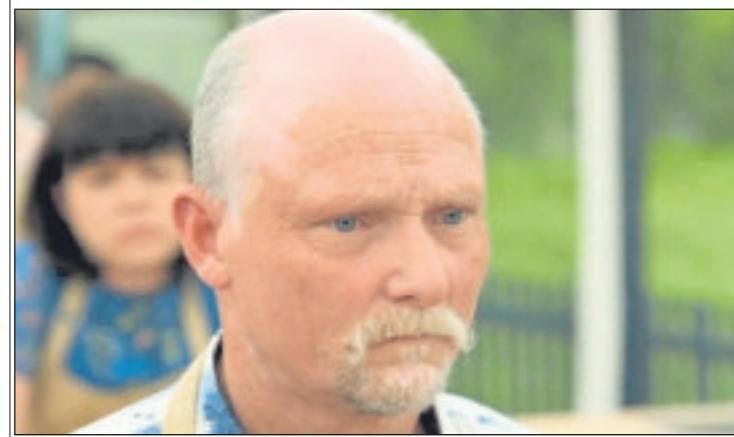
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Electrician left homes in a dangerous condition

Boozy traybake saves Terry



Terry survives to bake again in Great British Bake Off's bread week

BLACK Country Great British Bake Off contestant Terry again survived by the skin of his teeth on the second episode of this year's competition.

The retired air steward, from Dudley, failed to impress judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith but avoided the dreaded boot.

After a disappointing performance in the opening biscuit week, the 56-year-old again

failed to impress in cake week, screened by Channel 4 on Tuesday. But he was saved by the baking of 30-year-old civil servant Luke, who struggled more.

It was a bright start for Terry's boozy Rum and Raisin Traybake, was praised as a 'real pleasure to eat' by the judges. But his spinach-infused Le Gâteau Vert for the technical challenge was ranked eight

out of 11. The final showstopper challenge saw contestants create a Chocolate Collar Cake with minimum of two tiers.

Terry's ambitious Champagne and Strawberries Eiffel Tower cake ended up half finished as the top of the tower melted in the heat.

After being given a lifeline, Terry will be hoping to turn his fortunes around in bread week.

A BUNGLING electrician, who had not updated his skills for around 40 years, left the homes of his customers in a dangerous condition, a judge heard.

Alan Riley boasted of his 35 years experience in an advert but failed to mention he was not registered to any official body and the last time that he had a valid qualification was in the 1970s.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that work done by the 65-year-old grandfather at two addresses was sub standard and 'dangerous'.

The defendant was chosen to fit lights, sockets and a fuse board at a house in Commonside, Pensnett, after he quoted £850 in January 2017.

Riley was paid £600 but £250 was withheld because the ceiling had been damaged when the lights were installed.

Then the couple discovered the electrician had left bare cable, cut earth wires, broken sockets and put in a fuse board with a vital part missing, said Mr Alexander Barnfield, prosecuting. It cost them £434 to have the faults corrected.

Warrant

Dudley Council got a warrant to search Riley's property on November 17 and found a list of addresses where he worked. They checked and discovered the defendant had also installed a faulty fuse board at a house in Chiltern Road, Amblecote.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said: He had a career of over 30 years without complaint until this happened. He qualified a long time ago but has not kept pace with the changing standards."

Riley from Osberton Drive, Dudley, who has now retired, was given an 18 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £664 compensation and £1,800 towards the costs of the case.

Figures show longer wait to see a GP

NEARLY one in four people in Dudley face a week-long wait before they can see a GP, according to the annual NHS GP survey.

The figure of 23 per cent has increased from 14 per cent.

The appointment figures are worse in South Staffordshire (25 per cent) but slightly better in Wolverhampton (20 per cent, or one in five people) and Sandwell (19 per cent).

The statistics were met with concern at the Royal College of GPs, where chair Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, said: "Patients are still waiting too long for a GP appointment, and too many are not getting an appointment when they want one.

"It means patients might not be getting the treatment they need in the early stages of their condition and their conditions will potentially become more serious."

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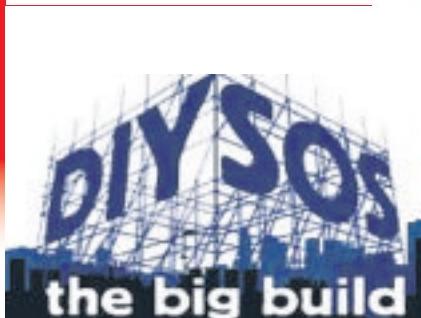
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14 Chance to go behind scenes at civic buildings

SIX important heritage buildings in Dudley will be throwing open their doors to the public as part of Heritage Open Day on Saturday.

The event is a celebration of the country's architecture and culture, and venues not usually open to the public allow access to enable visitors to discover the hidden treasures within.

Visitors will be able to view the 1920s-built grade II listed Coroner's Court, which retains its original fittings and furnishings.

They can also see the famous Hans Feibusch mural, together with the rarely seen preliminary sketches, at the Town Hall, and step back in time at the Unitarian Old Meeting House, which is one of the oldest buildings in Dudley.

Visitors will also be able to sit in the council chamber where important decisions are made, and have a rare behind the scenes peek at the ancient 'Top' and 'Bottom' churches, where there will be tours, refreshments and special events.

Anyone wishing to view the buildings should turn up at most venues between 10am and 4pm, with the exception of Dudley Town Hall, which will be open between 11am and 3pm. No booking is required.

Heritage Open Days is a scheme that encourages owners of historically important buildings to open them free of charge to the public.

Blues star Joanne sells out the Robin

A HOMECOMING concert by internationally-renowned blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor has sold out at a Black Country venue. Bilston's Robin 2 club is hosting the Wednesbury-born star as part of her upcoming UK tour.

The guitarist and singer, who recently signed a deal with Sony Music, on the Silvertone label, for three albums will be playing the 700-capacity venue on October 7.

COMEDIANS, entertainers and football legends gave their final, heartfelt tributes to beloved Black Country comic Ian 'Sludge' Lees at his funeral.

More than 100 family members, friends and celebrities packed St Mary's Church in Cannock to say goodbye. Mourners included comedians Jasper Carroll and Johnny Carroll, and Wolves legends John Richards and Don Goodman.

The Cannock-born star and Wolves supporter died on July 30, aged 74, just weeks after being diagnosed with cancer. He is survived by his partner Diane Mills and four children, Amanda, Daniel, Sophie and Tom. Emotional and tearful tributes were made by each of his children during the service last Wednesday.

His eldest son Daniel said: "Our dad had presence, timing and the ability to turn all situations into his favour. He was never happier than when he had a room full of people in

hysterics." Tom added: "Dad always tried to see the funny side of things. It's his fault too that I had an unhealthy obsession with Wolverhampton Wanderers. Some of the best times with dad were at Molineux. It would take us an hour to get round though as people were always stopping him for photos. He really was loved, he was just so kind to others."

Sludge's manager and close friend Jake Elcock called him a 'comedy legend'. He said: "There are certain comedy routines that will always be

associated with him – the Eric Cantona TV sketch for example. Even now every time a football player gets a red card my grandsons still chant 'what sent him off for?'

"And most of all his boxing routine. No matter how many times you saw it it still brought gales of laughter – 'There was a familiar face in the third row, it was mine. I got knocked down, the ref said get up at nine, I said what time is it now? I was a chicken weight, I always had the stuffing knocked out of me.'

TV comedian Jasper Carroll attended the service, and paid tribute.

"We were this band of comic brothers. We all looked after each other," he said. "I worked with him many a time. He was a great comic and so reliable. There's a comedy club up there now. When I get up there I'm going to have trouble getting on the stage."

And Black Country entertainer Kenny Craig said: "We had a great camaraderie. They were fabulous days. Ian led a great life."

Stars say farewell to Sludge

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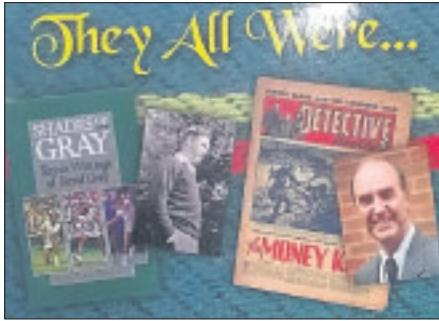
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Some of the class of 1951 with legendary teacher Daisy Druller centre front



The cover to They All Were by John Sparry



King Edward headmaster R L Chambers dedicates a sun dial at the school



Bryn Venus at the piano with Brian Maiden's Blue Train



Musician, writer and raconteur John Sparry at home

School days and all that jazz recalled by John

MEMORY LANE

Report by Mark Andrews

BLACK Country historian, jazz musician and raconteur John Sparry has produced two new books taking a nostalgic look back.

John, whose colourful life have seen him make appearances on BBC radio, looks back at some of the characters who attended Stourbridge's King Edward VI Grammar School – now King Edward VI College – in his book They All Were.

His other title, Crazy Rhythm, is a fond memoir of five well-known musicians who regularly played at famous jazz venue The Trumpet pub, Bilston.

John, who attended the school in the 1950s, is well-known in the Black Country for his bookshop in Enville Road, Wall Heath, which has been frozen in time since he was a child. He has never owned a television, cooker or washing machine, cooks his food on an open fire, and says his one concession to modern life is an electric kettle.

King Edward VI Grammar School dates back to 1552, and its most famous former pupil was 18th century essayist, moralist and lexicographer Samuel Johnson, who found fame as the author of what is generally regarded as Britain's first dictionary.

Romantic

Another former pupil who became a major player in the literary world was Gerald Rusgrove Mills, the son of a Stourbridge solicitor, who in partnership with Charles Boon set up a publishing house in 1908 which would later become synonymous with romantic novels. John is well aware of the cynicism regarding the Mills & Boon brand in today's literary world, but says that was not always the case.

"Lest you greet this with a patronising smile, it must be noted that in

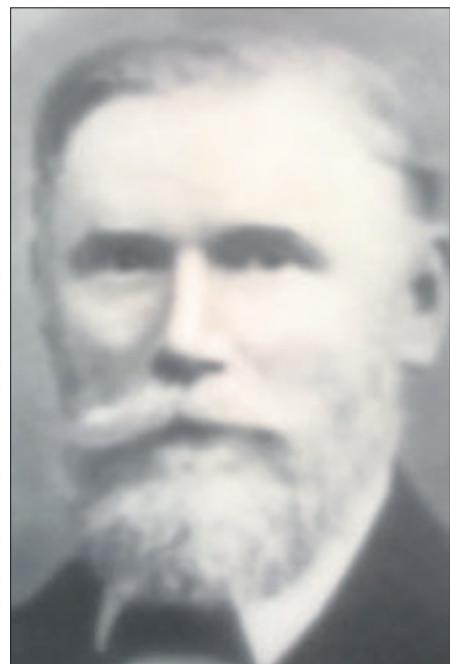
their early days the firm of Mills & Boon published many scholastic works and books of reference," he says. "In fact the name of Rupert Deakin, an ex-King Edward headmaster, is numbered among Mills & Boon's pre-First World War authors."

A more recent writer to emerge from the school is David Gray, the Kingswinford-born tennis writer whose columns in The Guardian from 1956 to 1976 made him one of the best-known sports journalists of his era.

The book features a number of anecdotes and memories of formidable and long-serving teacher Daisy Druller.

John's other book, Crazy Rhythm, looks at the lives of jazz musicians Derek Halford, Mick Webber, Pete Cater, Bryn Venus, and Richard Werratt, who became firm favourites at The Trumpet. It includes many anecdotes, photographs and newspaper cuttings about the famous five.

Both books are on sale at John's shop at 15 Enville Road, and at Ashwood nurseries, near Kingswinford. Call John on 01384 359109.



Headmaster Rupert Deakin, not a typical Mills & Boon author

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Oh, What a night! You will be Beggin' for more

REVIEW: Jersey Boys, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
By Alison Norton

THE audience was left Beggin' for more as the latest UK tour of Jersey Boys took the Grand Theatre by storm.

Having won 57 major awards worldwide, the show has an impressive history and it is no wonder that audiences across the country are still flocking to enjoy hit after hit in the tale of this sensational 60s group from the wrong side of the tracks.

Essentially a jukebox musical, the storyline is of course factual, so the show has far more depth than its counterparts, allowing the cast to really get to grips with the characterisations of the band members and give the audience an insight into life in the rough and tough world of New Jersey.

Unforgettable

Those of you who don't know much about the Four Seasons may be shocked and surprised by their somewhat dubious existence.

Far from being the boys next door, these were true New Jersey lads, all of whom spent some time inside, making it difficult to perform and record. However, their collaboration resulted in huge hits such as Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry, Walk Like a Man and My Eyes Adored You.

In Act One as the storyline developed, we enjoyed some of the group's lesser known songs including Cry for Me, I'm in the Mood for Love and Sunday Kind of Love, all of which were equally appealing. It would be unfair to choose between the four leading men, as each one is perfectly cast, but a conversation heard on the way out of the theatre confirmed my thoughts that James Alexander Gibbs had done an impeccable job of portraying Frankie Valli.



Jersey Boys cast Declan Egan, Michael Watson, Simon Bailey and Lewis Griffiths

Valli, certainly in terms of his unforgettable falsetto vocals, but also his warm, charismatic personality which gushed over the floodlights.

Frankie Valli knew personal tragedy as well as fame and fortune and Gibbs' interpretation of Fallen Angel, a song remembering his deceased daughter, was heart-wrenching but beautifully delivered. Another highlight was his performance of My Mother's Eyes, but for me, the delivery of arguably the Four Seasons' most famous tune, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, completely stole the show.

Simon Bailey as the band's founder, Tommy DeVito, was arrogant and shady; the perfect strutting Italian Stallion.

He gave outstanding characterisation and an excellent vocal performance.

Declan Egan as Bob Gaudio, the songwriter behind many of the band's major hits, offered a solid, suave performance, while the charming Lewis Griffiths had the humour, appeal and superb bass voice of Nick Massi.

The ladies in the cast were not to be outdone, including a feisty, full-blooded portrayal of Valli's long suffering wife Mary by Tara Young and a great rendition of My Boyfriend's Back from the girls playing The Angels.

The show just oozed class and professionalism.

Jersey Boys runs until Saturday.

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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



OUR last auction saw us selling some pieces of lovely Ercol furniture for extremely good prices – so I thought this week we could look at what makes this style so hugely popular today.

Firstly, there is a wide range to choose from and a number of these pieces proved to be the subjects of some fierce bidding during our recent sale.

An Ercol elm Windsor glazed bookcase on cupboard, in a light colour, sold for £230, while an Ercol elm Windsor writing bureau with fall front, two doors and one drawer went for £110 and an Ercol elm book trolley made £90.

Ercol has long been famous for producing sleek and stylish furniture, the company dating back to 1920 when it was founded in High Wycombe by Italian designer Lucian Ercolani (hence the name!).

Lucian's goal was to produce the best in design and craftsmanship and in 1944 he was contracted by the Board of Trade to supply a number of low-cost Windsor chairs.

The family-run company used elm because they could 'steam bend' it, this proved to be a great idea and the company went from strength to strength, selling affordable furniture to very keen post-war buyers.

These mass-produced items became hugely popular in the 1940s and 1950s, the famous Windsor Kitchen Chair was bought by millions of people and Ercol became a household name in terms of stylish yet affordable furniture.

The sleek, timeless design continued to prove appealing into the 1960s, the Ercol Butterfly Chair being another trademark piece, and the range expanded over the decades to include wardrobes, bookcases, sideboards, tables and cabinets.

Other classic designs were the Stacking Chair, the Loveseat and the Plank table, all of which are sought after in the saleroom.

Ercol is amongst those designs of furniture that never seem to go out of fashion, largely because they fit seamlessly into almost any room setting, regardless of whether that room is in a period house or a contemporary one.

As with all vintage and pre-loved furniture check before you buy for any signs of wear and tear.

See you at the next sale of antiques and collectibles!

* The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, October 2, from 10.30am.

* Viewing is during the weekend and on Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

* Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.

Could you be suffering from a sleep disorder?



Overwork can impair your sleep

FEELING your eyelids flutter when you should be concentrating at work? Liz Connor looks into why you might be feeling fatigued...

There are plenty of reasons (both self-inflicted or otherwise) why you might arrive at work feeling slightly worse for wear and yawning into your third Americano.

Sleepless nights are never fun, but all of us will experience tiredness at some point throughout our lives, and the odd disrupted night of sleep isn't usually a cause for concern. If you find yourself frequently nodding off and fighting sleep at work though, it could be a sign that something else is up.

What could be the reasons for your persistent sleepiness? Here, Matthew Reed, founder of health insurance company Equipms.com explains just a few.

1. Stress

"It's a sad but true reality that stress has become part of our everyday lives, and unfortunately work is usually one of the main contributors," says Reed.

Stress can be physically and emotionally

exhausting; it's how our bodies react to situations that our mind deems threatening, uncomfortable or perilous. "Usually, your heart rate will increase, breathing quickens and blood pressure rises, so dealing with stress is key to prevent feeling the need to have a nap during work hours," he explains.

"Try deep breathing, taking a break from your screen or confiding in someone close to you, to relieve some of the burden."

2. Overworking

Overworking goes hand-in-hand with stress and often produces the same results. It can seriously impair your sleep, leaving you feeling groggy and exhausted," says Reed.

"Not only does overworking increase your chances of dropping off at your desk, along with myriad of other issues, but it's actually bad for your employer in the long run. Productivity often falls if employees reach the end of their tether and experience burnout.

If you feel as if your boss has given you far too much work and you truly believe it's negatively affecting your health, Reed says you should speak to management and see if you can divide your workload more fairly.

3. Poor diet

We all know that diet has a serious effect on how you feel. "If you don't have enough iron, for example, then you could be left feeling sluggish, weak and distracted," says Reed.

"If you do find yourself struggling to keep your eyes open next time you're working on a serious project, think about what it is you've eaten recently and consider adapting your diet to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle. If you aren't sure whether your diet could be a contributing factor, start a food diary. Too much sugar or fat, for instance, can result in energy crashes throughout the day.

"Instead of eating sugary snacks, try and fuel yourself with natural energy sources such as quinoa, honey, spinach and even peanut butter."

4. Sleep disorders

Falling asleep persistently throughout the day or feeling groggy could be a sign that you're struggling with a sleep disorder.

"Excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS), sleep apnea and narcolepsy are all sleep disorders that can cause you to not get enough sleep at night," says Reed.



Hoping to help – Hannah with a client



Power of herbs – Hannah is proof they work

Herbs can heal and I'm the proof, says Hannah



In the mix – getting ingredients

HANNAH Charman was just 15 years old when she had the shock of her life and suddenly found she was struggling to walk.

Her mystery illness drained all her energy, leaving her exhausted all the time and missing months of lessons.

But her family struggled to convince her doctor, who believed her symptoms were down to Hannah just being 'a malingerer' and disliking school, that something more serious was going on.

It turned out she was suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which commonly causes extreme tiredness and makes it hard for someone to carry out ordinary daily activities.

With no one else to turn to in mainstream medicine, Hannah's parents took her to a homeopathic doctor in London and this was a moment which she says she will never forget.

Not only did she get the help she desperately needed to say goodbye to the condition, but the experience also had a major influence on her future career.

Until then she had wanted to be a vet, but suddenly her path changed and she studied for an honours degree in western herbal medicine for four years at Middlesex

University. Now, with her business Physic Health Consulting, she has clinics in Perton and Tettenhall, where she helps patients through a combination of herbal medicine, health coaching and reiki.

Looking back on her illness, Hannah, who is mother to three-year-old Jacob, says: "My dad picked me up from school one day and by the time he had parked up I couldn't get out of the car.

"It came on in 10 minutes and I was ill for weeks but just thought it was a bad virus. However, it was a year later, when I was 15, and was going to catch a bus that I suddenly found I couldn't walk properly.

"I somehow managed to get back home and then I was off school for months. My doctor told me I was a malingerer and that I had a problem with school.

"None of that was true – my dad was having to hold me up just to get me into the doctors surgery. It was awful that I was just seen as being lazy."

Hannah said it was a combination of homeopathy, hypnotherapy and reiki which cured her condition.

"After not having any luck with the doctor my parents took me to Harley Street in London to see a homeopathic doctor and he

was the first person to take me seriously.

"Homeopathy drastically improved my condition in just a few weeks, and hypnotherapy and reiki saw off the last of it.

During her work she sees a lot of patients that struggle with a range of problems from stress, anxiety and fatigue to depression, high blood pressure and eczema.

Treatments are personalised according to each patient, often combining health coaching with herbal medicine to overhaul their diet and lifestyle, so that within six to eight weeks they see a big difference.

Hannah says there are many every day items that you may already have around the house which can bring many benefits. Chamomile tea is wonderful for soothing screaming babies, especially those that won't go to sleep.

The 41-year-old's other tips including keeping an aloe vera plant. "They are so useful. You can use the fresh gel to soothe minor sunburn or heat rash," explains Hannah. "A couple of bruised cardamom pods in hot water makes a calming tea for tummy bugs and indigestion," she adds.

"It's easy to soothe the ear ache with an oat compress. Make sure it's comfortably warm before putting it onto the affected ear."

For more information go to www.physichealth.uk

What's New Sept-Dec 18

TELEPHONE NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

FREE TASTERS — pre booking essential

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

Mon. 17 Sept. 10.00-11.30.

1 wk.

FREE

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-20.30.

1 wk.

FREE

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

Mon. 17 Sept. 18.00-19.30.

1 wk.

FREE

DANCE FIT

Tues. 18 Sept. 18.00-19.30.

1 wk.

FREE

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS

Thurs. 13 Sept. 18.00-19.00.

1 wk.

FREE

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

PHOTOSHOP 1

Mon. 17 Sept. 09.30-11.30.

6 wks.

£45.60#

PHOTOSHOP 2

Mon. 05 Nov. 09.30-11.30.

6 wks.

£45.60#

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

5 wks.

£38.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON EBAY

Tues. 18 Sept. 09.30-11.30.

4 wks.

£30.40#

AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD

Tues. 23 Oct. 09.30-11.30.

1 wks.

£7.60#

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD

Tues. 06 Nov. 09.30-11.30.

3 wks.

£22.80#

MASTERING YOUR IPAD

Tues. 27 Nov. 09.30-11.30.

3 wks.

£22.80#

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTERS: THE BASICS

Mon. 17 Sept. 14.30-16.30.

3 wks.

£22.80#

Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

3 wks.

£22.80#

COMPUTERS: INTERNET AND E-MAIL

Mon. 08 Oct. 19.00-21.00.

3 wks.

£22.80#

Mon. 08 Oct. 14.30-16.30.

3 wks.

£22.80#

INTRODUCTION TO CREATING DOCUMENTS WITH WORD

Thurs. 27 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

5 wks.

£38.00#

INTRODUCTION TO CREATING PRESENTATIONS WITH POWERPOINT

Thurs. 08 Nov. 19.00-21.00.

5 wks.

£38.00#

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

Improvers: Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

12 wks.

£82.80#

Intermediates: Tues. 18 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

12 wks.

£82.80#

NEW Beg: Thurs. 20 Sept. 18.00-19.00.

12 wks.

£45.60#

Advanced: Thurs. 20 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

12 wks.

£82.80#

ITALIAN

NEW Beg: Mon. 24 Sept. 09.30-11.30.

11 wks.

£75.90#

Beginners: Mon. 24 Sept. 18.00-19.30.

11 wks.

£62.70#

Improvers: Mon. 17 Sept. 14.30-16.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

Intermediates: Mon. 17 Sept. 12.00-14.00.

12 wks.

£82.80#

SPANISH

NEW Beg: Mon. 24 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

10 wks.

£69.00#

Improvers: Tues. 18 Sept. 14.30-16.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

Intermediates: Wed. 19 Sept. 09.30-11.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

Improvers: Wed. 19 Sept. 11.30-13.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

Advanced: Wed. 19 Sept. 14.00-15.30.

12 wks.

£68.40#

Cont Beg: Tues. 18 Sept. 12.30-14.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

NEW Beg: Thurs. 20 Sept. 12.30-14.00.

12 wks.

£68.40#

PORTUGUESE

Beginners Mon 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

10 wks.

£69.00#

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CREATIVE WRITING

Mon. 24 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

5 wks.

£38.00#

FLOWER ARRANGING

Tues. 18 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

5 wks.

£41.00#

LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE

Tues. 18 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

10 wks.

£69.00#

PAINTING AND DRAWING

Wed. 19 Sept. 09.30-11.30.

12 wks.

£82.80#

Thurs. 20 Sept. 10.00-12.00.

12 wks.

£82.80#

Thurs. 20 Sept. 13.30-15.30.

12 wks.

£82.80#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Thurs. 27 Sept. 19.00-21.00.

10 wks.

£69.00#

POTTERY

Sat. 29 Sept. 10.00-12.00.

9 wks.

£83.40#

Sat. 29 Sept. 12.30-14.30.

9 wks.

£83.40#



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Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Education & Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 26th May to 3rd June unless stated otherwise.

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

Use your Smartphone to read our QR (quick response) code. It will take you to our website.



HEALTH AND FITNESS

LOW IMPACT AEROBICS

Thurs 20 Sept. 18.00-19.00. 12 wks. £45.60#

PILATES

Improvers: Tues. 18 Sept. 19.00-20.00. 12 wks. £45.60#

Improvers: Wed. 12 Sept. 18.30-19.30. 13 wks. £49.40#

Improvers: Thurs. 13 Sept. 19.05-20.05. 13 wks. £49.40#

Improvers: Thurs. 13 Sept. 20.10-21.10. 13 wks. £49.40#

BEGINNERS @ The Oakfield Centre:

Fri. 14 Sept. 10.00-11.00. 13 wks. £54.60#

Fri. 14 Sept. 11.15-12.15. 13 wks. £54.60#

FITNESS YOGA

Tues. 18 Sept. 20.05-21.05. 12 wks. £45.60#

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beginners: Mon. 10 Sept. 19.00-19.45. 13 wks. £54.60#

Beginners: Tues. 18 Sept. 19.00-19.45. 12 wks. £37.80#

Improvers: Mon. 10 Sept. 19.45-20.30. 13 wks. £54.60#

Advanced: Mon. 10 Sept. 20.30-21.15. 13 wks. £54.60#

DANCE FIT

Tues. 25 Sept. 18.00-19.00. 11 wks. £41.80

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR

NEW Beg: Tues 18 Sept. 18.00-19.20. 12 wks. £59.30#

Improvers: Tues. 18 Sept. 19.30-21.00. 12 wks. £68.40#

Intermediates: Thurs 20 Sept. 19.00-20.30. 12 wks. £68.40#

Advanced: Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00. 12 wks. £82.80#

*** Please contact Student Services for prices

PRIVATE GUITAR LESSONS

Beginners: Mon. 17 Sept. 17.05-17.35. 6 wks. ****

Beginners: Mon. 17 Sept. 17.40-18.10. 6 wks. ****

Beginners: Mon. 17 Sept. 18.15-18.45. 6 wks. ****

Beginners: Thurs. 20 Sept. 17.05-17.35. 6 wks. ****

Beginners: Thurs. 20 Sept. 18.15-18.45. 6 wks. ****

Beginners: Thurs. 20 Sept. 18.45-19.15. 6 wks. ****

**** Please contact Student Services for prices

HANDICRAFTS

UPHOLSTERY FOR BEGINNERS

NEW Mon. 17 Sept. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £45.60#

Tues. 18 Sept. 12.00-14.00. 12 wks. £82.80#

UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS

Wed. 19 Sept. 12.00-14.00. 12 wks. £82.80#

SEWING FOR PLEASURE

Tues. 18 Sept. 09.30-11.30. 12 wks. £82.80#

SEWING MADE SIMPLE

Thurs. 20 Sept. 18.00-20.00. 12 wks. £82

Dan's the man for soulful tunes

If you like George Ezra, Paolo Nutini or Jack Savoretti, check out Shrewsbury singer-songwriter Dan Owen, whose debut album, *Stay Awake With Me*, reveals a major new talent with a soulful voice.

Dan says of his new release: "I like to think of it as a collection of personal stories and experiences. I feel like this is what I have been working for since I first picked up a guitar at eight years old. A lot has happened since then and these songs cover some of the high and low points for me and those closest to me."

He is certainly entering a crowded market, the success of Ezra, Ed Sheeran, James Bay and the like, means there is no shortage of mellow-voiced sensitive souls who strum guitar. His debut follows a well worn path with its use of gospel choir and uplifting strings but songs such as *What Is A Man* and *Splinter* show lots of promise. Icarus and *Hideaway* have already garnered attention, the former making the Radio 2 playlist and the latter Radio 1.

Dan's a man with plenty of potential and can build on this debut. After supporting Isaac Gracie and playing festivals, he plays Birmingham's Castle & Falcon, Moseley Road, on October 13 and has a home town gig at the Theatre Severn on November 16.

Meanwhile, Wolverhampton singer-songwriter Scott Matthews, whose latest album is *The Great Untold*, has nearly sold out his home city gig at the Newhampton Arts Centre on September 28.

Have a go at falconry at the Midland Game Fair



Escape to the country

THE Midland Game Fair returns to Weston Park this month, offering a host of country-themed events, activities and demonstrations, adding up to a great day out for all the family.

The line up in the main arena will include performances by The Knights of Middle England, Ye Olde Redtail Falconry, as well as musical from the Coventry Corps of Drums and a traditional Hound Parade.

At the Midland Game Fair, over the weekend

of September 15 and 16, there will be musical entertainment including the popular Folk Roots Festival across three stages.

There is also a Food Festival and the Beer in the Park area in which to take a break from visiting more than 700 trade stands selling countryside clothes and accessories.

Traditional country pursuits will include displays by master netsman Brin Brinded and there will also be an opportunity to try the Survival Camp with ex-SAS Soldier Bob Podesta.

There's the Prince Albert Angling Fishing Village, a Working Dog Village, Falconry Village and enthusiasts can enjoy a festival showcasing of shooting sports.

The event organised by Countryman Fairs features the finals of the Chudleys Gundog Championship, BASC Clay Shooting and BFTA European Field Target Championships.

To discover more about this year's event or book tickets (under-16s go free with a full paying adult) visit www.midlandgamefair.co.uk website.

High standard of food and ales

The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of options to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection.

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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www.theislandpool.net

Spike is Goon but not forgotten

The first ever UK tour of the classic radio comedy *The Goon Show* visits Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on September 18.

In 1951 the landscape of British comedy changed dramatically when *The Goon Show* burst onto the airwaves of the BBC Home Service. Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and, in the early days, Michael Bentine brought a brand of surreal humour unlike anything that had been heard before and revolutionised comedy.

With its bizarre characters, fantastical plots and running jokes, *The Goon Show* captured the imagination of the British public and made household names of its three main stars, all of whom would go on to achieve fame.

Now in *Goon Show* creator Spike Milligan's centenary year, Apollo Theatre Company, who recently produced the 50th anniversary tour of another classic radio comedy, *Round the Horne*, have teamed up with Spike Milligan Productions to bring the show to the stage for the first time.

Producer, Norma Farnes, Spike's assistant and manager for 36 years, says: "There is no better time than the centenary of Spike's birth to celebrate his most enduring creation. Spike's sense of the absurd created a whole new form of comedy which fuelled everyone's imagination and still does today."

Brimming wit and surreal humour, *The Goon Show* promises to be a must-see for classic comedy fans.



Bangla Kitchen has been established on Shell Corner for over 35 years, as a Bangladeshi and Indian takeaway.

They serve a range of traditional and house speciality dishes. There is also the chef's exclusive selection, so there is definitely something to suite everyone's tastes. Bangla Kitchen also do a set 4 course meal for just £9.95 and set meals for two for £18.95. They also have a variety of combination dishes, so for a truly tasty meal, get yourself to Bangla Kitchen, you won't be disappointed.

73 Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9DJ | Tel: 0121-559-0525

Opening Hours: Sunday - Thursday 5pm-11pm Friday & Saturday 5pm-11.30pm, including Bank Holidays.



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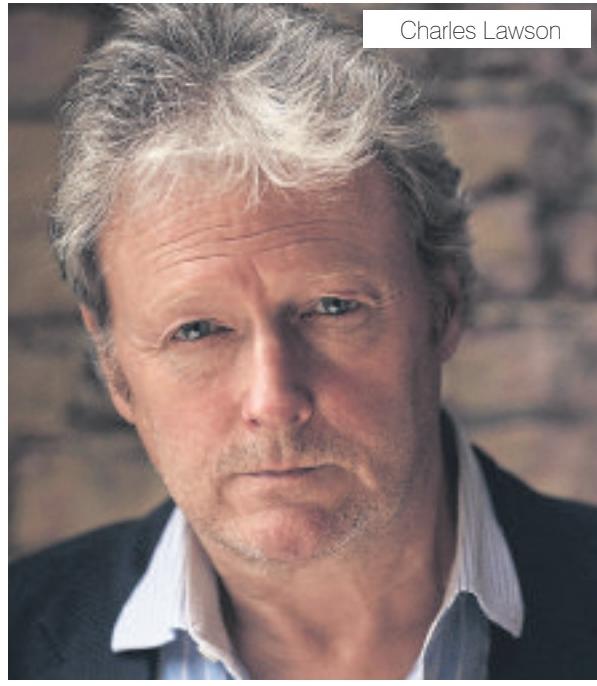
JUST EAT

Opening Hours: Sunday - Thursday 5pm-11pm Friday & Saturday 5pm-11.30pm, including Bank Holidays.

AT YOUR LEISURE

Rebus returns with a new case at Birmingham Rep

Charles Lawson



Scottish detective John Rebus is being brought to the stage when the latest story in the popular crime series gets its world première at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Ian Rankin's Edinburgh-set Rebus novels have dominated the detective fiction scene for decades with the subsequent television series ensuring the detective's legendary status. Now, alongside award-winning playwright Rona Munro, Rankin brings his beloved creation to the stage for the first time.

Rebus: Long Shadows finds the former detective inspector living in retirement and trying to keep off the booze but his past life won't let him be, and when the daughter of a murder victim appears outside his flat, he's back on the case.

Taking on the role made famous on television by John Hannah and later by Ken Stott is Charles Lawson, best known for playing Jim McDonald in Coronation Street. Alongside Lawson will be John Stahl (from Game of Thrones) as Big Ger Cafferty and Cathy Tyson (Band of Gold/Grange Hill) as DI Siobhan Clarke.

The play, directed by Robin Lefevre, will be staged at Birmingham Rep from September 20 to October 6 before touring.

Cinders will Wiggle Wine to the ball with Donchez

Britain's Got Talent star Donchez Dacres wiggled his way into the hearts of the nation with his catchy Wiggle Wine song.

Now Wolverhampton-based Donchez will wiggle his way to the ball as he stars in a charity pantomime in the Black Country later this year.

The 61-year-old singing AA man will be joining the cast of Cinderella, the Mary Stevens Hospice's annual pantomime at Stourbridge Town Hall in November.

Amanda Bowen, deputy head of fundraising and lottery at the Stourbridge-based hospice, said: "Much like the rest of the nation, we were wiggling and wining from the

moment he appeared on our screens and we could not be more thrilled that he's joined the cast for this show.

"Community is at the heart of everything we do here at the charity, and to be able to let our supporters know that a performer of his calibre will be on hand to entertain them in support of the families relying on our care is just such a special thing to be able to do."

Cinderella will run for five shows at the town hall, between November 28 and 30. For tickets, call 01384 377778 or visit www.seaty.co.uk/cinderella website.

It is the second show organised by the hospice, after their production of the Wizard of Oz sold out in January with X Factor star Wagner as the Wizard.



Wiggle Wine with Donchez

Cooking up a treat in ruins of Ludlow Castle

This weekend marks the 24th Ludlow Food Festival and the line-up mixes renowned chefs and food writers with more than 180 producers from across the Marches area.

There will be tasting, talks, demonstrations and more at the festival, which starts tomorrow (Friday) and continues to Sunday. Organisers have secured some big names for this year including Thomasina Miers, founder of Wahaca, and Brad Carter from the Michelin-starred Carters of Moseley, a regular on TV's Saturday Kitchen. There is also strong representation from chefs local to the Welsh border counties.

Italy-based Rachel Roddy, acclaimed for both her cookbooks and her regular *Guardian* column, will also be appearing at Ludlow, as will Great British Bake Off's Howard Middleton and Sandy Doherty, plus rugby star turned Celebrity Masterchef winner Phil Vickery.

The festival is one of the town's biggest events, regularly attracting more than 15,000 people to the grounds of Ludlow Castle across three days. For details visit www.ludlowfoodfestival.co.uk.

Punk's not dead, it's just Idles at the moment

Bristol band Idles are fast getting a reputation as the best new punk band in a generation. The high-energy five-piece outfit will come to Birmingham next month as part of their Tour of Joy, following the release last week of their incendiary second album, Joy as an Act of Resistance.

It's hard to imagine a more volatile mosh pit than that which will greet such tracks as Rottweiler and Danny Nedelko, the latter a punk anthem on a par with Babylon's Burning (The Ruts) and White Riot (The Clash). Singer Joe Talbot is a force to be reckoned with, a refreshing blast of righteous anger when tackling such subjects as class, nationalism, immigration and toxic masculinity. He also shows an empathetic side, particularly on June. Few other bands would take on such a subject as the death of a child. But they are not dour, an air of positivity pervades their raw, infectious agit-pop.

Idles will be in concert at the O2 Institute in Birmingham, on October 26, a busy night at the Digbeth venue with veteran reggae act The Mighty Diamonds and singer-songwriter Sophie Hunger in the other two rooms.

15 Years and Celebrating

Commercial feature

Sunday 2nd September The Bangla Lounge restaurant held its 15th year anniversary celebrations which went down a storm. A great time was had by all who attended, enjoying the delicious food and dancing the night away. With the Mayor also there participating in the celebrations of this great restaurant and the wonderful achievement of Bangla Lounge servicing the Halesowen area for 15 years.

The restaurant has been serving quality pan Asian food for the last 15 years.

Originally set up in 2003 by Bari's family the business has gone from strength to strength and now celebrating their 15th year anniversary.

As a thank you to all their loyal customers for all their support over the years they are offering 15% discount every Friday & Saturday up to the 15th September and this is both eat in or take away.

Atmosphere and decor

As you enter you are welcomed by magnificent setting and a delightful marriage of classic and luxurious modern – a wonderful comfortable experience.

The menu dishes

The menu offers a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes from red hot Goa to cool Kashmir. On the new 2018 menu, new dishes include South Indian garlic lamb or chicken, Dhabba Murgh, as well as exclusive house specials Tamarind king prawns, chicken makhani and home-made lamb dish. There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and fish lovers including vegetable jhal, Roson Ki salmon, also any main dish from the menu using Quorn pieces.

The ingredients

All food is made freshly cooked on order and the dishes have the warmth of homemade Indian cooking. The chefs take great care in selecting



Owner and manager Bari Azad is ready to welcome you

the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.

Healthy eating

At Bangla Lounge, healthy eating is high on the agenda if you prefer to have low calorie version of your favourite dishes prepared, they are able to specially prepare most dishes using less oil, no butter or ghee-less food colouring resulting in lighter meals.

If you are planning a celebration, the restaurant's upstairs function room

can cater for up to 40 guests is ideal for work parties birthday celebrations anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service for free within a three-mile radius.

To book a table call 01215857020 or email: info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk

Check out Trip Advisor to read their wonderful reviews on what a fabulous experience and great food received.

The restaurant can be found at 67-69 High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BQ.





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AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Jess Gillam

Last Night of the Proms (BBC1, 9pm)

The classical music celebration continues live from the Royal Albert Hall with the ever-popular Marche militaire française by Saint-Saëns. Award-winning 18-year-old saxophonist Jess Gillam performs Scaramouche by Milhaud. Plus, baritone Gerry Finley performs the Soliloquy from Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel, and there is a nationwide sing-along of traditional First World War songs with contributions from the Proms in the Park events in Swansea, Glasgow and Belfast. The event is then brought to its familiar and rousing close with Rule, Britannia!, Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, 11.30 Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) 12.00 Football Focus, 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Great North CityGames: Coverage from the Newcastle Gateshead Quayside, 3.45 Money for Nothing, (R) 4.15 Film: Brave. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Kelly Macdonald, 5.40 BBC News, 5.55 Regional Programme, 5.55 Impossible Celebrities.
- 6.45 Pointless Celebrities. An EastEnders edition of the general knowledge quiz with contestants including Natalie Cassidy, Dean Gaffney, Perry Fenwick, Emma Barton, and Lisa Hammond.
- 7.35 Strictly Come Dancing Launch Show 2018. New series. The pro-celebrity ballroom contest hosted by Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman returns, featuring a medley of Nile Rodgers' greatest hits performed by Chic and the man himself. Nile is also joined by Craig David and Stefflon Don for a special performance of their new single. The line-up this year features former Pussycat Dolls singer Ashley Roberts, Casualty actor Charles Venn (Jacob Masters), Red Dwarf's Danny John-Jules, Steps singer Faye Tozer, former England cricketer Graeme Swann, YouTube personality Joe Sugg, BBC newsreader Kate Silverton, TV presenter and campaigner Katie Piper, Paralympic swimmer and paratriathlete Lauren Steadman, Blue singer and former EastEnders actor Lee Ryan, This Morning doctor Ranj Singh, stand-up comedian Sean Walsh, investigative journalist Stacey Dooley, TV presenter and fashion expert Susannah Constantine, and radio DJ Vick Hope.
- 9.00 Last Night of the Proms. The classical music celebration continues live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring the familiar and rousing close of Rule, Britannia!, Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem.
- 10.35 BBC News: Weather.
- 10.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of the opening weekend of fixtures.
- 9.00 Film: Spotlight. (2015) Premiere. A team of investigative reporters for a Boston newspaper investigate reports of children being molested within the Catholic church. The journalists discover the situation is far worse than it seemed, as they find a conspiracy among the city's legal, religious and government establishments to cover up decades of abuse. Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Mark Ruffalo and Michael Keaton.
- 11.00 Film: Drive. (2011) A stuntman-turned-getaway driver tries to protect a criminal's family, only to get drawn into a conflict with the Mafia. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Carey Mulligan.
- 12.35 Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now. (R) 1.35 This Is BBC Two.

BBC2

- 6.40 Top Class, (R) 7.05 Marrying Mum and Dad, (R) 7.35 Officially Amazing Goes Bankers, (R) 8.05 The Denegeers, (R) 8.35 Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom, (R) 9.05 Planet Dinosaur, (R) 9.35 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities, (R) 10.00 Nature's Miracle Babies, (R) 11.00 Natural World: The Last Grizzly of Paradise Valley, (R) 12.00 Nigel Slater: Eating Together, (R) 12.30 Great British Menu, (R) 1.00 Great British Menu, (R) 1.30 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food, (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer, (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under, (R) 4.15 Scrappers - Back in the Yard, (R) 4.15 Saving Lives at Sea, (R) 5.15 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor, (R) 5.45 Ancient Invisible Cities, (R)
- 6.45 Dad's Army. Mainwaring tries to talk Frazer into depositing his hoard of gold sovereigns in a safe place – his own bank. Vintage comedy, with Arthur Lowe and John Laurie, (R)
- 7.15 Last Night of the Proms. The season comes to a close with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and former chief conductor Andrew Davis steering proceedings live from the Royal Albert Hall. The centenary of the end of the First World War is marked with a new work from Roxanna Panufnik, which also rounds off the season's original premieres and features the BBC Singers and BBC Symphony Chorus. The evening also includes music by Hindemith, Berlioz and Charles Hubert Parry, who is celebrated 100 years after his death with a performance of Blest Pair of Sirens.
- 9.00 Film: Spotlight. (2015) Premiere. A team of investigative reporters for a Boston newspaper investigate reports of children being molested within the Catholic church. The journalists discover the situation is far worse than it seemed, as they find a conspiracy among the city's legal, religious and government establishments to cover up decades of abuse. Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Mark Ruffalo and Michael Keaton.
- 10.30 ITV News: Weather.
- 11.05 UEFA Nations League Highlights. England v Spain. Action from the League A Group 4 encounter at Wembley Stadium.
- 12.05 WOS Wrestling. Crater continues to wreak havoc on the WOS arena and WOS Male Championship contenders push their claim to the title. Presented by Rachel Stringer, (R) 1.00 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, 3.00 Long Lost Family. A woman hopes to be reunited with the son she gave up for adoption, while a nurse wants to meet her father for the first time, (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Dino Dana, 6.10 Super 4, (R) 6.25 Super 4, (R) 6.35 Make It Pop, (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) 7.00 Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories, (R) 7.05 Mr Bean: The Animated Series, (R) 7.30 ToonMarty, (R) 7.40 ToonMarty, (R) 7.55 Thunderbirds Are Go, (R) 8.25 ITV News, 8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday, 9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning, 11.35 £10k Holiday Home, (R) 12.10 TV News, 12.25 The X Factor, (R) 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Haydock, Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Chinni introduce coverage of this afternoon's meetings at Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot, featuring highlight races, 4.30 WOS Wrestling, 5.30 ITV News; Weather, 5.40 Regional Programme, Weather, 5.50 Film: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, (2001) An orphaned boy with magical powers enrolls at a special school for young wizards. First in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Alan Rickman and Richard Harris.
- 8.30 The X Factor. The SSE Arena Wembley is the location as the audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. Judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell decide who goes through to the Six Chair Challenge, before the competition really heats up later in the year with the live shows.
- 9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined on tonight's show by guests Cate Blanchett, Jack Black, Joanna Lumley and Ashley Banjo, while Ray Winstone and Paul Whitehouse also drop in to talk about new heist movie King of Thieves. John Legend performs live in the studio.
- 10.50 ITV News: Weather.
- 11.05 UEFA Nations League Highlights. England v Spain. Action from the League A Group 4 encounter at Wembley Stadium.
- 12.05 WOS Wrestling. Crater continues to wreak havoc on the WOS arena and WOS Male Championship contenders push their claim to the title. Presented by Rachel Stringer, (R) 1.00 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, 3.00 Long Lost Family. A woman hopes to be reunited with the son she gave up for adoption, while a nurse wants to meet her father for the first time, (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 8

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 Adventure & Trail Running: UK Challenge, 6.40 Mobil 1: The Grid, 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.25 Fraser, (R) 9.00 Frasier, 9.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 10.50 The Simpsons, (R) 11.25 The Simpsons, (R) 12.00 Come Dine with Me, (R) 1.00 Four in a Bed, (R) 1.30 Four in a Bed, (R) 2.00 Four in a Bed, (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed, (R) 3.00 Four in a Bed, (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun, (R) 4.35 The People's Vet, 5.35 Escape to the Chateau: DIY, (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.
- 7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Natural History Museum palaeontologist Tori Herridge returns with the maritime documentary, which makes use of state-of-the-art technology to explore Britain's coastline for signs of the nation's seafaring history. This time, she begins in East Sussex, where she explores the wreck of a ship that sank in the 1740s along with its cargo, (R)
- 8.00 Lost Cities of the Maya: Revealed. Documentary exploring the ruins of a hidden civilisation in the jungles of Central America, and revealing what fresh information the find has revealed about the Mayan people, (R)
- 9.00 Massacre at Ballymurphy. Documentary investigating the massacre in West Belfast in August 1971, in which 11 people died when British troops opened fire on Catholic residents. The film presents evidence suggesting that, contrary to the claims of the army at the time, all of the victims were innocent and unarmed. The families of the dead accuse Britain's elite Parachute Regiment of carrying out the shootings, the same regiment which, less than six months later, was to shoot dead 13 unarmed people on what became known the world over as Bloody Sunday.
- 10.30 Film: Gladiator. (2000) A Roman general is forced to fight as a gladiator and uses his position to seek revenge for the murder of his family. Oscar-winning epic, with Russell Crowe.
- 1.20 Hollyoaks, (R) 3.30 French Collection, (R) 4.25 Village of the Year with Penelope Keith, (R) 5.20 Food Unwrapped, (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake, 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, (R) 10.25 Access, 10.30 Police Interceptors, (R) 11.20 Police Interceptors, (R) 12.20 Police Interceptors, (R) 1.20 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords, (R) 2.20 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords, (R) 3.20 Rich House, Poor House, (R) 4.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!, (R) 5.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!, (R)
- 6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents head to Manchester to recover more than £400,000 owed to a builder, while officers in Kent chase over £11,000 owed by a couple for unpaid rent, (R)
- 6.55 5 News Weekend.
- 7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Highlights of day two of the fifth and final Test in the series, taking place at The Kia Oval, London. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Mark Nicholas, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford Brent and Charles Dagnall.
- 8.00 Brunel's Britain: King of the Sea. Rob Bell concludes his two-part documentary series on the great British engineer with the story of his two masterpieces of ship design – the SS Great Britain, the great-grandmother of all modern ships, and the SS Great Eastern. By the time he had finalised the latter's design, the ship was 692ft long and weighed nearly 19,000 tons. The biggest vessel afloat of its era, it dominated the final years of Brunel's life, generating great controversy at the time. It has even been blamed for causing his death, (R)
- 9.00 How the Victorians Built Britain. Michael Buerk looks at the creation of the sewer system, delving into the archives to reveal how appalling sanitary conditions forced the city of Liverpool to take action.
- 10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates past 24 hours from the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
- 11.05 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of the 80s. Countdown of controversial events from the decade, (R)
- 1.40 SuperCasino, 3.10 Traffic Cops, (R) 4.00 Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb, (R) 4.45 Wildlife SOS, (R) 5.10 House Doctor, (R) 5.35 Nick's Quest, (R)

DIGITAL

- 8.00 BBC Four
- 7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet, 8.00 Lost Land of the Tiger, 9.00 The Plague Rock, 10.45 Elton John at the BBC, 11.40 Glam Rock at the BBC, 12.40 Top of the Pops: 1986, 1.10 Secrets of Our Living Planet, 2.10 Lost Land of the Tiger, 3.10 Close ITV2
- 11.15 The X Factor, 12.15 Celebrity Catchphrase, 1.20 You've Been Framed! Gold, 2.25 Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights, 2004, 3.25 FYI Daily, 3.30 Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004)
- 4.40 Film: Arthur, (2011) 5.10 FYI Daily, 5.15 Film: Arthur, (2011) 6.20 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 7.20 FYI Daily, 7.25 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 9.00 Film: American Pie: Reunion, (2012) 10.05 FYI Daily, 10.10 Film: American Pie: Reunion (2012)
- 11.15 Family Guy, 12.15 American Dad!, 1.10 Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) 2.15 FYI Daily, 2.20 Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) 2.50 Teleshopping, 2.50 ITV2 Nighstreen
- ITV3
- 3.10 Film: Carry On Matron (1972), 4.55 Lewis, 7.00 Midmomer Murders, 9.00 Endeavour, 11.00 Vera, 1.00 On the Buses, 2.00 ITV3 Nighstreen, 2.30 Teleshopping
- ITV4
- 4.15 Football's Greatest: George Best, 4.30 Storage Wars, 5.55 The Chase: Celebrity Special, 7.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana, 8.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain, 9.00 Film: The Fugitive (1993), 10.05 FYI Daily, 10.10 Film: The Fugitive (1993), 11.45 Film: Swordfish (2001), 12.45 FYI Daily, 12.50 Film: Swordfish (2001), 1.45 Better Late than Never, 2.30 The Protectors, 2.55 ITV4 Nighstreen, 3.00 Teleshopping
- E4
- 12.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine, 1.05 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010), 3.00 The Great British Bake Off, 4.15 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice, 5.20 Extreme Cake Makers, 5.35 The Big Bang Theory, 9.00 Film: Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol, (2011) 11.40 Gogglebox, 12.40 Tattoo Fixers, 1.50 Rude Tube, 2.45 Gogglebox, 3.40 Rude Tube, 4.05 Rude(ish) Tube, 4.50 How I Met Your Mother, 5.30 Melissa & Joey, 5.45 Film 4
- 11.00 Crack in the World (1965), 1.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007), 2.55 Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013), 4.55 Carry On Spying (1964), 6.40 The Monuments Men (2014), 9.00 Solace (2015), 11.05 No One Lives (2012), 12.45 Savages (2012), 3.25 Close

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- ✓ 2 nights at our selected hotel with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Excursion to Haworth & Grassington Dickensian Festival
- ✓ En-route visit to Skipton Yuletide Festival

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SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 9

AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Bear Grylls

Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls

(Channel 4, 9pm)

New series. Another party of celebrities brave a deserted Pacific island. This year's team of castaways consists of Olympic rower James Cracknell, boxer Anthony Ogogo, Hollywood star Eric Roberts, Pete Wicks (Towie), Montana Brown (Love Island), transgender campaigner and journalist Paris Lees, actor Martin Kemp, TV medic Dr Salehya Ahsan, former model Jo Wood and Roxanne Pallett (Emmerdale). Pete takes charge as they look for a place to camp, but his decision to leave most of their fresh water behind stirs up resentment as the weather worsens.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **8.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.30** Great North Run. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Still Open All Hours. **(R) 2.15** Hold the Sunset. **(R) 2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Fake or Fortune? **(R) 4.35** Escape to the Country. **(R) 5.35** Shop Well for Less? **(R) 6.35** BBC News.
- 6.50 Regional Programme.**
- 7.00 Countryfile.** Anita Rani and John Craven present the show from Essex, reporting on how plant-based superfoods like borage and chia are becoming more popular and how timber that has washed up on the county's shoreline from around the world is being repurposed. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00** **Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the first work of sculpture featured on the show, an unusual piece called The Gazing Head, which may have been made by Alberto Giacometti in 1930s Paris. The quest to uncover the truth is complicated by the fact that the sculpture was once broken into several pieces by a cat.
- 9.00** **Bodyguard.** As the security service's position grows weaker, the police takes the opportunity to reclaim control of the investigation. David struggles to come to terms with the devastating events of the previous 24 hours, and finds himself being questioned by counter-terrorism agents. Pushed to breaking point, he finds an unexpected source of support in his estranged wife, who leaves him determined to take an active role in the case – starting by finding out more about those in the government who work closely with Julia.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Regional Programme.**
- 10.30 Kylie Minogue Live at Hyde Park.** The singer performs at the BBC Radio 2 Festival in a Day, featuring a selection of classic hits and tracks from her recent country music-inspired album Golden.
- 11.30 The Women's Football Show.** Eilidh Barbour introduces highlights and talking points from the opening day of the 2018/19 Women's Super League.
- 12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens.** **(R) 7.35** Gardeners' World. **(R) 9.35** Countryfile. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 12.00** Great British Menu. **(R) 1.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. **(R) 1.30** Hairy Bikers: Best of British. **(R) 2.30** Wastemen. **(R) 3.30** Homes Under the Hammer. **(R) 4.30** Flog It! **(R) 5.00** Great North Run Highlights.
- 6.00 Film:** **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.** (1989) The intrepid archaeologist sets out to find his estranged father, who has gone missing while searching for the Holy Grail. Once reunited, the duo team up to finish the task and locate the sacred relic before the Nazis get their hands on it. Action adventure sequel directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Alison Doody, River Phoenix, Julian Glover and Denholm Elliott.
- 8.00 Dragons'** Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of business plans for gourmet cheesecake, hired-drones, and collagen-infused gin. Presented by Evan Davis.
- 9.00 Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon.** The teams have the finishing line in their sights as they travel along Vietnam's coastline to Saigon – but the last day brings one duo to the brink of disaster. Last in the series.
- 10.00 Mock the Week.** Angela Barnes, Ed Gamble, Rhys James, Nish Kumar and Tiff Stevenson join host Dara Ó Briain and regular panellist Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
- 10.30 No Activity.** New series. Comedy following the work of two low-level detectives on a stake-out. In the first episode, Bruce and Hendy start the operation with a plaster dolphin in their car.
- 10.55 No Activity.** Stokes and Hendy find themselves sitting in an empty dockyard watching shipping containers, but an ever eager security guard disrupts the operation.
- 11.20 The Mighty Redcar.** Documentary about people in the North Yorkshire seaside resort Redcar. (R)
- 12.05 American Justice.** **(R) 1.05** Sign Zone: Countryfile. **(R) 2.00** Holby City. **(R) 3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Dino Dana. **6.10 Super 4.** (R) **6.25 Super 4.** (R) **6.35 Make It Pop.** (R) **6.55 Cut Stories:** Share a Story. **(R) 7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **(R) 7.05 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** **(R) 7.15 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** **(R) 7.30 ToonMarty.** **(R) 7.40 ToonMarty.** **(R) 7.55 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **(R) 8.25 ITV News.** **8.30** Zool Bee on Sunday. **9.25 Ninja Warrior UK.** **(R) 10.25 WOS:** Wrestling. **(R) 11.25 The X Factor.** **(R) 12.45 5 Gold Rings.** **(R) 1.45** ITV News; Weather. Coverage of the day's biggest races from Goodwood. **4.00** Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. **(R) 4.30 Tipping Point.** **(R) 5.30 The Chase.** (R)
- 6.30 ITV News:** Weather.
- 6.45 Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 7.00 5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor in five increasingly difficult stages. This episode features sisters competing against a married couple.
- 8.00 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary hosts further action from the arena auditions from the SSE Arena, Wembley, in which solo singers and groups compete to impress judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell. If three or more judges like what they see, the performers can win the chance to go through to the judge's deliberation, and possibly even the Six Chair Challenge.
- 9.00 Vanity Fair.** Becky has moved in with her rich aunt Matilda, and seems to have a bright future ahead of her. However, war is brewing on the horizon, which threatens the fortunes of the scheming social climber and everyone she knows. Adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's novel, starring Olivia Cooke.
- 10.05 The Imitation Game.** Alexander Armstrong hosts the impressions-based panel show, with team captains Rory Bremner and Debra Stephenson joined by panellists Christina Bianco and Jon Culshaw.
- 10.45 ITV News:** Weather.
- 11.00 Coronation Street's DNA Secrets.** (R)
- 12.25 Monster Carp.** **(R) 1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.40 Motor Sport:** FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.30** Fraser. **(R) 9.00** Fraiser. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.55** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.25** Film: The Book of Life. (2014) Animated adventure, with the voice of Diego Luna. **3.15** The £100k Drop. **(R) 4.20** Orangutan Jungle School. **(R) 5.20** The Great British Bake Off. **(R) 6.35** Channel 4 News.

7.00 Hidden Britain by Drone: Heatwave Special:

- Tony Robinson discovers how the hot summer of 2018 led to unexpected archaeological discoveries, as parch marks on the ground have shown signs of what is buried beneath it. Tony talks to archaeologists and drone pilots who have recorded these finds, and discovers the race to document these hidden secrets before they are destroyed by rain.

8.00 Battle of Britain: Model Squadron.

- New series. Radio controlled plane enthusiasts from Britain and Germany are brought together by historian James Holland to recreate three pivotal days in the most famous aerial battle of the Second World War, using specially designed model aircraft that are able to shoot each other down. The re-enactment picks up from July 1940, just a month after the Dunkirk evacuation when bombing of British shipping began as a prelude to invasion.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.

- New series. Another party of celebrities brave a deserted Pacific island, including Olympic rower James Cracknell, boxer Anthony Ogogo, Hollywood star Eric Roberts, Pete Wicks (Towie), Montana Brown (Love Island), transgender campaigner and journalist Paris Lees, actor Martin Kemp, TV medic Dr Salehya Ahsan, former model Jo Wood and Roxanne Pallett (Emmerdale). Pete takes charge as they look for a place to camp, but his decision to leave most of their fresh water behind stirs up resentment as the weather worsens.
- 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show, with Sean Lock and Bill Bailey taking on special guest captain Joe Wilkinson and Isy Suttie. (R)
- 11.00 Film:** **The Lincoln Lawyer.** (2011) Thriller, with Matthew McConaughey and Marisa Tomei.
- 1.10 The Supervet.** **(R) 2.05** The Secret Life of the Zoo. **(R) 3.00** Grand Designs Australia. **(R) 3.55** Mobil 1: The Grid. **(R) 4.25** Gillette World Sport. **4.50** Village of the Year with Penelope Keith. **(R) 5.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. **(R) 5.50** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake:** Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. **(R) 6.10** Peppa Pig. **(R) 6.15** Ludo. **(R) 6.30** Digby Dragon. **(R) 6.40** Fireman Sam. **(R) 6.50** Thomas & Friends. **(R) 7.05** Bob the Builder. **(R) 7.15** Rush. **(R) 7.30** Peppa Pig. **(R) 7.35** Peppa Pig. **(R) 7.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 7.55** Paw Patrol. **(R) 8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. **(R) 8.30** Shimmy and Shine. **(R) 8.50** Pirata & Capitano. **(R) 9.05** Noddy. **(R) 9.40** Paw Patrol. **(R) 9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **(R) 10.25** Britain's Greatest Bridges. **(R) 11.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 11.25** Police Interceptors. **(R) 12.20** Friends. **(R) 12.55** Friends. **(R) 1.20** Friends. **(R) 1.50** Friends. **(R) 2.20** Friends. **(R) 2.50** Friends. **(R) 3.15** Friends. **(R) 3.45** Friends. **(R) 4.15** Friends. **(R) 4.45** Friends. **(R) 5.15** Film: Tarzan. (1999) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tony Goldwyn.

6.15 Access:

- Showbiz news and gossip.

6.20 Film:

- Tarzan. (1999) Concluded.

7.00 Cricket on 5:

- England v India. Highlights of day three of the Fifth and final Test in the series, taking place at The Kia Oval, London.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

- 8.00 That's So 1982.** A look back at 1982, featuring news, pop and TV archive clips. It was a year that saw the Falklands War, the birth of Prince William, Channel 4's launch together with the first episode of Countdown, and Steven Spielberg's ET: The Extra-Terrestrial break box office records. It was also the age of new romanticism and electropop, while tracks such as Come on Eileen, Eye of the Tiger and Pass the Dutchie stormed the charts. (R)

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.

- The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Celebrity Ghost Hunt: Haunted Holiday.

- New series. Ryan Clark-Neal takes a team of celebrities on a ghost hunt in Ireland's Wicklow Gaol.

11.05 30 Inches Tall and Turning 18: Extraordinary People.

- 12.00 Film:** Red Dawn. (2012) **1.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** Brunel's Britain: King of the Sea. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. **(R) 4.45** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 5.10** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

- 7.00** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story. **8.00** A303: Highway to the Sun. **9.00** Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Monumental Art. **10.00** The Sky at Night. **10.30** Inside CERN: A Horizon Special. **11.30** The Last Explorers. **12.30** Al Murray's Great British War Movies. **1.30** Pappano's Classical Voices. **2.30** A303: Highway to the Sun. **3.30** Close ITV2

12.50 Ninja Warrior UK.

- 1.50** Ninja Warrior UK. **1.50** You've Been Framed! **2.50** The X Factor. **4.05** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) **5.00** FYI Daily. **5.10** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) **6.10** Film: Minions. (2015) **7.20** FYI Daily. **7.25** Film: Minions. (2015) **8.00** Film: Hot Pursuit (2015) **9.05** FYI Daily. **9.10** Film: Hot Pursuit (2015) **9.50** Family Guy. **11.20** American Dad! **12.15** The Cleveland Show. **12.40** Ghosted. **1.05** Release the Hounds. **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

- 1.10** Goodnight Mister Tom. **3.20** Film: Columbus: Suitable for Framing (1971) **5.00** Foyles War. **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital. **11.00** Wire in the Blood. **12.40** A Touch of Frost. **2.30** Road to Avonlea **ITV4**

11.00 Film:

- Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **12.05** FYI Daily. **12.10** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **1.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain. **3.15** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Coverage of the eighth and final stage of the race. **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **11.05** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.00** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.00** The Avengers **E4**

12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

- 1.30** Young Sheldon. **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. **4.30** Film: Paddington (2014) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Krypton 10. Fear the Walking Dead 11.00 Gogglebox. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Krypton 2. Fear the Walking Dead 2.50 Rude Tube

Film4

- 11.00** Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** Stuart Little (1999) **2.40** Eragon (2006) **4.40** The Dam Busters (1955) **7.10** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **9.00** Ride Along 2 (2016) **11.10** Killing Softly (2012) **1.05** Hallam Foe (2007)

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Tues 18th Sept
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Weds 19th Sept
Royal Mint Experience See the other side to the coins in your pocket! ..**£30 £28 28**

Sat 22nd Sept
Blackpool Illuminations Sand,Sea,Piers (Tour lights 7.30pm 1 hr Max).....**£20 £18 16**

Sat 22nd Sept
Coronation Street The Tour & Free Time Salford Quays/Manchester.....**£55 £55 55**

Weds 26th Sept
Autumn Colours in the Vale of Evesham with Tour Guide.....**£16 or 2 £30**

Thurs 27th Sept
Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Betsi — Coed Llanberis Pass Llandudno.....**£20 £18 16**

Sat 29th Sept
Blackpool Illuminations Sand,Sea,Piers (Tour lights 7.15 pm 1 hr Max).....**£20 £18 16**

Sun 30th Sept
Emmerdale Studio Experience & free time in Leeds A Great day out!.....**£42 £40 40**

Sun 30th Sept
Malvern Autumn Show Stalls, Animals, Classic Cars, Plants, Etc, Includes Add**£30**

Tues 2nd Oct
Mystery Day Out!! A Surprise Outing to break up your Week!!.....**£12 or 2 £20**

Sat 6th Oct
Wellswells Market & Stratford Upon Avon — Fish & Chips Tea.....**£20**

Sun 7th Oct
Kensington Palace "Princess Diana Remembered" & a Sunday Roast Lunch ..**£49**

Tues 9th Oct
Moreton in the Marsh Market, Carvery—Evesham Valley Shopping Mall.....**£22**

Wed 10th Oct
Mystery Meal Tour Day out??? with a Stop for Lunch!!!.....**£22**

Thurs 11th Oct
Blackpool Illuminations Midweek Special(Tour 7 pm 1 hr Max).....**£16 or 2 £30**

Sat 13th Oct
Blackpool Illuminations Sand, Sea & Piers (Tour 6.45 pm 1 hour Max).....**£20 £18 £16**

Sun 14th Oct
Weston Super Mare, Weston Super Mare, Weston Super Mare.....**£33 £32 £21**

Sat 14th Oct
Blackpool Illuminations Sand, Sea & Piers (Tour 6.45 pm 1 hour Max).....**£20 £18 £16**

Sat 15th Oct
Terracotta Army "Warriors in Liverpool" Includes Admission.....**£33 £32 £21**

Sat 14th Nov
Blackpool Illuminations Sand, Sea & Piers (Tour 6.45 pm 1 hour Max).....**£20 £18 £16**

Sat 18th Nov
Coronation Street The Tour & Free Time Salford Quays/Manchester.....**£55 £55 55**

Sat 10th Nov
Weston Super Mare, Weston Super Mare, Weston Super Mare.....**£33 £32 £21**

Sat 10th Nov
Mystery Meal Tour Day out??? with a Stop for Lunch!!!.....**£22**

Weds 14th Nov
London Theatre Shows Lion King Les Misérables Matinee Performances Stall Seating ..**£75**

Thurs 15th Nov
Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market Festive Shopping.....**£14 or 2 £22**

Sat 17th Nov
Cardiff Capital of Wales" Christmas Market, Stalls & Festivities.....**£18 £16 £13**

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Llandudno Christmas Fayre Food,Drinks, Crafts, Stalls.....**£18 £16 £13**

Weds 21st Nov
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Thurs 22nd Nov
Bristol Christmas Market & Cavery on the way Home!!!! ..**£25**

Sat 24th Nov
Bath Christmas Market. Magical Christmas Shoppers Paradise!! ..**£20 £16 £13**

Fri 2nd Nov
Blackpool Illuminations (Tour Lights 1 hour max at 5pm).....**£20 £18 £16**

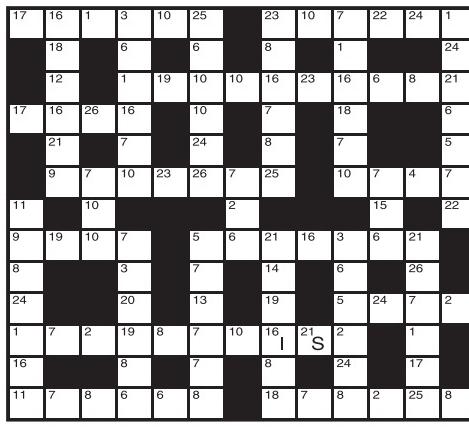
Thurs 1st Nov
Blackpool Illuminations (Tour Lights 1 hour max at 5pm).....**£20 £18 £16**

BRAIN GYM

No.496

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	E	L	P	V	K	S	I	G	A	U	Z	J	F
14	Y	B	X	H	W	C	Q	T	D	R	N	M	O

Quiz

- What was the pen name of author Amantine Aurore Lucile Dupin?
- What does a natural trumpet not have?
- In which US state is Black Rock Desert?
- In Greek mythology, of what was Aeolus the god?
- What was the Gestapo's nickname for WW2 nurse Nancy Wake?
- What type of creature is a razor-fish?
- What do the letters CH stand for when appended to a name?
- Who was the first British-born astronaut to walk in space?
- Which US presidential home did Eisenhower name after his grandson?
- In the Old Testament, who caused Samson's hair to be cut off?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

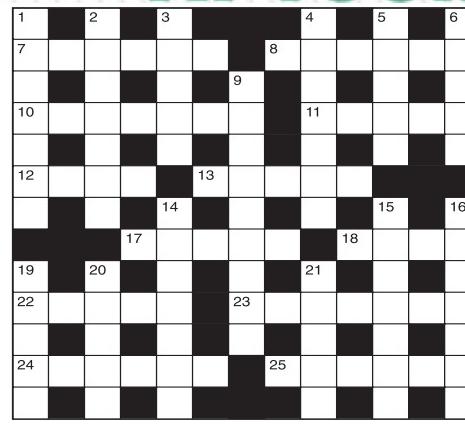
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Genuineness of fellow-feeling about ancient city (6)
- Language of refinement (6)
- Receiver's illegal act (7)
- Dance to produce white skin again? (5)
- Timely stitch saving (4)
- Bird gives a lift? (5)
- So bun could become a gratuity (5)
- Bad weather in the south at present (4)
- A spinster gone wrong (5)
- City of Abraham? (7)
- Boring tool gets me in the back (6)
- All for change of flowers (6)
- Assign father to rise to the matter at issue (7)
- Contemptuous of sacred things, but in favour of temple (7)
- Paradoxically MPs had to before taking their seats (5)
- A lot of money obtained from music (7)
- They have their pride, of course (5)
- Worth a fling (5)
- Pull to pieces completely while sobbing (9)
- No terms for a giant (7)
- Getting all meals while sailing? (2,5)
- Cheat using new lids (7)
- Girl is about right to take to the altar (5)
- Five find knotted tail essential (5)
- Fish where two lines meet (5)

Down

- Assign father to rise to the matter at issue (7)
- Contemptuous of sacred things, but in favour of temple (7)
- Paradoxically MPs had to before taking their seats (5)
- A lot of money obtained from music (7)
- They have their pride, of course (5)
- Worth a fling (5)
- Pull to pieces completely while sobbing (9)
- No terms for a giant (7)
- Getting all meals while sailing? (2,5)
- Cheat using new lids (7)
- Girl is about right to take to the altar (5)
- Five find knotted tail essential (5)
- Fish where two lines meet (5)



Quick Clues:

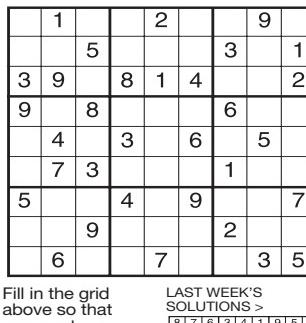
Across

- Ascending (7)
- Sailor (7)
- Devoutness (5)
- Cheat (7)
- Profound (4)
- Long for (5)
- Fireplace (5)
- Danger (5)
- Eager (4)
- Mild (5)
- Generous (7)
- Leap (6)
- Agreement (6)
- 10
- 11
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Down

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- 25

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	6	3	4	1	9	5	2
9	4	1	2	8	5	7	3	6
3	5	2	7	9	6	1	8	4
1	6	5	8	2	9	3	4	7
4	8	9	6	7	3	2	1	5
7	2	3	1	5	4	6	9	8
6	9	8	5	1	7	4	2	3
2	1	7	4	3	8	5	6	9
5	3	4	9	6	2	8	7	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Reach; 4 Donkeys; 8 Grosser; 9 Grave; 10 Tied; 11 Restrict; 13 Shed; 14 Rate; 16 Overnight; 17 Wash; 20 Allot; 21 Reunion; 22 Endless; 23 Press. Down: 1 Right up to date; 2 Abode; 3 Most; 4 Darken; 5 Nightcap; 6 Examine; 7 Sweet nothings; 12 Belittle; 13 Settled; 15 Shorts; 18 Aside; 19 Hump.
QUICK - Across: 1 Excel; 4 Sadness; 8 Trade-in; 9 Vying; 10 Bore; 11 Prospect; 13 Tall; 14 Cost; 16 Harmless; 17 Bowl; 20 Emend; 21 Egghed; 22 Tatters; 23 Dense. Down: 1 Establishment; 2 Chair; 3 Lees; 4 Sundry; 5 Division; 6 Evident; 7 Sign the pledge; 12 Dislodge; 13 Torment; 15 Assess; 18 Ocean; 19 Aged.

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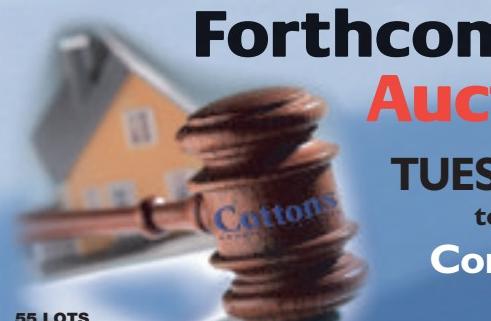
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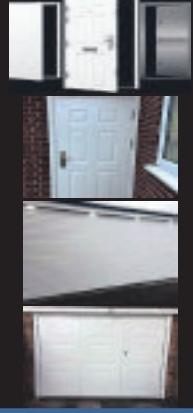


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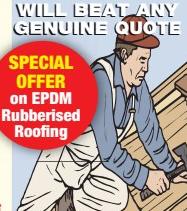
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10 Personals

General

Personal

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MG's hatchback receives a revamp

By Ian Donaldson

A thorough revamp of MG's little hatchback marks another step in the awakening of an automotive giant.

For more than a decade the famously British badge has been planted on the nose of cars coming from China and produced by one of the world's biggest car companies, SAIC.

But you have to look hard to spot a new MG on our roads, where 813 of them were registered in July. That only just beat the rather more upmarket Porsche, with 758 sales, but it's an upward trend.

And that's important; with sales for the month increased by a more than encouraging 166 per cent there is optimism in the air around the MG brand.

This new reworking of the MG3 aims to keep that sales trend heading upward. With other new models due in the next three years, including plug-in electric hybrids and even a battery powered roadster, we might quite soon see the MG badge more often.

A much larger version now takes pride of place on the newly styled front of the MG3, complete with bolder radiator grille. There's a bigger one on the back too, as MG emphasises those two famous initials.

This styling refresh gives the MG3 more in common with its two newer siblings, in the shape of GS and SZ models, both hitching a ride on the current SUV boom, with the ZS accounting for more of half total sales of the brand.

Inside the latest MG3 you'll find a new dashboard complete with clearer instruments and a touchscreen adding a spot of style in a spacious interior that belies the modest price asked for the car – which starts at £9,495 for



There's a new dashboard inside

an Explore model, slides through the £11,395 Excite and tops out with the Exclusive at £12,795.

All versions have Bluetooth telephone and audio streaming and AUX/USB as standard, while Excite and Exclusive gain the eight inch colour touchscreen with Apple CarPlay (but no Android Auto), DAB radio and steering wheel audio controls. The Exclusive version adds a reversing camera with dynamic guidelines to help pop it into a tight parking space.

The entry level version costs £800 more than before but that's not likely to dampen sales – more than half of new MG3s will be in the dearest spec, so buyers evidently don't buy simply on cheapness.

What may tempt them is the new seven year or 80,000 mile warranty that comes with this latest version, showing faith in its longevity and transferable to a new owner if you decide to sell up and move on.

Under the bonnet beats a mildly upgraded



The newly styled front of the MG3, complete with bolder radiator grille and a large MG badge on the bonnet

version of the previous 1.5 litre petrol engine, meeting the latest emissions regulations and capable of powering the car to 108mph and to 60mph in 10.4 seconds.

Those are unremarkable figures – along with tailpipe emissions of 140g/km and official average economy of 47.1mpg. Insurance in lowly groups seven or eight is more likely to impress.

So too does the way the MG3 drives on

the British roads where prototypes spent many thousands of miles in development of the original model. It translates into a nicely restrained ride and enough response to steering input to make corners something to welcome.

A five-speed gearbox leaves you wanting a sixth ratio at motorway speeds and the engine never shows anything like enthusiasm if provoked. A 41.9mpg return on the dashboard

display felt like a reasonable return though. At rest, the MG3 continues to impress with enough space inside for a quartet of grown ups and a boot capacity of 285 litres is no disgrace in the car's supermini class.

So, the latest MG3 takes the game on but only a little. It's obvious attractions perhaps centre more on price and warranty but it's a move in the right direction. Watch this space, as they say.



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New lease of life for flagship NSX

Honda has given its flagship supercar a new lease of life for 2019, with an extra paint option, better chassis rigidity and more cabin customisation.

The new, eye-catching Thermal Orange Pearlescent joins the bodywork choices, while also being available as a finish on brake calipers for optional carbon ceramic discs. Other visual tweaks include the switch from a chrome upper front grille to a colour-matching piece, while mesh in the front and rear bumpers is painted gloss black.

Customers can now also opt for a full red leather interior or blue trimmings on Alcantara and leather combination upholstery.

It's not just aesthetic changes for the NSX, though. New, larger stabiliser bars improve chassis rigidity at the front and rear of the car by 26 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, while the rear hubs and control-arm toe link bushings have been beefed up to boost chassis responsiveness.

There have also been some software tweaks to improve the AWD system, electric power steering, stability assistance and active dampers.

Power hasn't been increased, but the engine does get some minor fettling with upgraded injectors, turbocharger tweaks and a new particulate filter to ensure the NSX complies with the Euro 6d-TEMP emissions standard.

The updated Honda NSX is expected to go on sale early in 2019, with a limited allocation coming to the UK. Pricing has yet to be revealed.

Aston Martin's pumped up Grand Tourer so engaging

By Ian Donaldson

You can find about almost everything about a new Aston Martin from the company's elegant and deeply detailed website – except the price of the lovely car you're building on your computer screen.

For that you're politely asked to submit the imagined car to the dealer of your choice – and they'll be in touch to discuss the next steps.

Which, in the case of the car you see here today will involve a cheque for at least £201,995, unless you're tempted by a gold finish for the oil filler cap or embroidered Aston Martin badges on the seat headrests.

They – and a near bewildering host of other finishing touches – will push the final bill (an unspecified amount) further skyward.

Which, for the few very lucky people able to afford an Aston Martin won't matter a jot. They've worked hard (or inherited well) and can have the car of their dreams built just for them.

Admire

The motoring world would, truly, be a duller place if we couldn't admire the occasional Aston Martin growling past us on the motorway or – more likely – edging oh-so-carefully into a parking space outside a swanky hotel.

The car we're admiring right now is the company's DB11 grand tourer in its most pumped up form and designed to make an already very fast car still more engaging for keener drivers with an empty, sweeping



Designed to make an already very fast car still more engaging for keener drivers

road in front of them.

So, taking the £157,900 DB11 as a starting point the chaps at Aston Martin have gained an extra 30bhp from its turbocharged 5.2 litre V12 engine, the resultant 630bhp enough for a 208mph top speed and 0-62mph in 3.7 seconds.

That makes this DB11 AMR (for Aston Martin Racing) the fastest model in the company's current production range, although to be honest the lesser version's 187mph and 4.1 seconds to 62mph scarcely seem lacking.

Still, there will always be drivers with deep pockets who lust after the fastest they can find and for which the £174,995 asked of the DB11 AMR is hardly a trip hazard, let alone a stumbling block.

Indeed for the deepest pockets there's a gold plated head – 'wow'!

Stir that epic engine room into action and the wows come thick and fast and with enough deep-throated intent to clear the way out of a crowded Silverstone infield as the car headed for some public road action.

Where it surprised instantly with the way it tackled some awful roads (the councils are cash strapped, you may have read) with a cushioned firmness not expected from suspension carefully adjusted to its new AMR role.

The stab of a steering wheel button firms it instantly but the car felt better in softer mode.

Prod another button and the eight speed automatic gearbox sharpens up its act and the big exhaust pipes emit encouraging pops and crackles.

Huge specially developed tyres on massive 20ins alloy wheels mean a driver's courage runs out way before the car's capabilities on public roads but make this big and heavy car (lighter and wider than a Range Rover Evoque) a confident steer at more sensible speeds.

At which you'll have time to admire the goodies that a DB11 price tag brings in tow, from 360 degree surround cameras and Caithness leather trim to carbon bonnet blades and a storage bin between the seats with a motorised sliding opening, lest you expend too much energy doing it yourself.

A trip computer reading of 22.9mpg after a morning's canter will prove no disincentive to a potential owner, more bothered with how often the 78 litre fuel tank will need filling.

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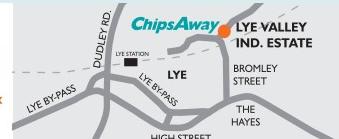
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Jaguar Classic has all-electric E-Type Zero in the pipeline



Jaguar Classic will build production examples of the all-electric E-Type Zero, it has been confirmed.

The all-electric version of the 1960s classic made its debut as a concept at the Jaguar Land Rover Tech Fest in September 2017 and a newer version will be unveiled at Monterey Car Week, which is currently taking place.

Using the latest cutting-edge technology from the Jaguar I-Pace, Jaguar Classic will restore old E-Types and convert them to electric power at its Classic Works facility in Coventry.

People who own E-Types can also take their cars to have them retrofitted with the electric

motor. To avoid any perceived automotive sacrilege, though, Jaguar has said the process will be fully reversible.

There are no pricing or spec details for the production version of the E-Type Zero yet, but the concept version is powered by a 40kWh battery and has a range in excess of 170 miles, while recharging takes six to seven hours.

This is mated to a single-speed reduction gearbox.

Jaguar Classic also says the Zero has better performance than the original E-Type, with a quicker acceleration, although no figures have been given yet.

Changes other than the powertrain

include LED headlights and a touchscreen infotainment system.

Tim Hannig, director of Jaguar Land Rover Classic, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the positive reaction to the Jaguar E-Type Zero concept."

Future-proofing the enjoyment of classic car ownership is a major stepping stone for Jaguar Classic. E-Type Zero showcases the incredible heritage of the E-Type and expertise and craftsmanship at Classic Works, while demonstrating Jaguar Land Rover's dedication to creating zero-emission vehicles across every part of the business, including Jaguar Classic."





From left, Stuart Baker, Richard Cox, Andy Flower and Amir Farooque



Dartmouth Cricket Club team with captain Richard Cox, front row fourth from left



Richard Cox honoured after his last game



Richard Cox in batting action

Ceesay poised for move to Seasiders

A FORMER Black Country non-league footballer is set to follow in the footsteps of Curtis Tilt by signing for League One side Blackpool.

Winger Yusif Ceesay, 23, was playing for Smethwick Rangers in the West Midlands Premier Division – seven levels below League One – barely two years ago.

He has also turned out for Willenhall-based outfit Sporting Khalsa before joining Alvechurch earlier this summer.

Ceesay, who played in Spain before coming to England, impressed for Blackpool in a friendly and the Bloomfield Road side are set to offer him a two-year deal.

He would not be the first product of West Midlands non-league to join Blackpool. Former Gornal and Halesowen centre-half Tilt, a former JCB driver from Walsall, joined last summer and has since become one of the division's finest defenders.

Cox declares after an innings to remember

IT HAS spanned five decades, more than 850 matches, included countless silverware and involved some of the most famous names in cricket.

Now, 44 years after making his debut at the age of 12, Richard Cox has decided to declare his Birmingham League playing career finished.

Cox, who was the league's longest-serving player, took to the field for the final time recently for a second XI match between Halesowen and West Bromwich Dartmouth, the two clubs with whom he hoisted a host of trophies.

"It felt like now is the right time. You can't go on forever," said Cox. "There are a number of factors. I had a pretty nasty car accident last winter and 50 overs in the field was already becoming quite a strain. I'd noted when this fixture was scheduled when I'd made up my mind. I didn't say anything about it. I guess I just wanted to go out on my own terms."

Passion

Cricket has been a 24-7 existence for Cox, both as a player and in the many roles he has held as an administrator. But the sport has been less a hobby, or even a job – and more a religion.

The passion he holds for the game still burns as brightly as it did when he first set foot inside Edgbaston cricket ground as a seven-year-old boy.

Cox's father Trevor, who both played and umpired, was a major influence. "It was dad who got me into it, he just loved the game," he said. "I've often asked why I've played for so long. I'm guessing most people, having worked in the sport from Monday to Friday, would want their weekends off.

"But it's because my father ingrained in me this deep love for the game, which will be with me until I'm no longer here. The Birmingham League has and always will be part of my world."

"When I was a young boy I lived for it. I couldn't wait to get the Express & Star on a Monday night to read the reports and scorecards – and then the Friday edition for all the previews. It was a religion to me."

Cox made his first forays as a youth player with south Birmingham club Old Edwardians, before making the move to Dartmouth, where he made his

league bow in a second XI clash with Warwickshire Colts. "It was a case of being in the right place at the right time," he said. "Someone dropped out and I was called up."

Cox would go on to spend the next 25 years at Sandwell Park, 10 as captain of the first XI. After a season at Harborne, he then began an 18-year stint at Halesowen, where he captained the team to the 2002 Premier Division title in remarkable circumstances.

"I remember being called up on the Friday by David Manning, the club's head of cricket," recalls Cox. "He said: 'We are 18 points off the relegation zone and sinking fast. I need you to take over the captaincy and try and keep us up.' Five weeks and six games later we'd won the league!"

Cox had already tasted league glory at Dartmouth nine years previously, while he was part of the team which won the knockout cup six years on the spin and reached the National Knockout final at Lord's in 1993, where they lost to league rivals Old Hill.

What sticks out above the trophies, however, are the endless anecdotes and memories.

In 1999, Cox was part of the Dartmouth team which played Smethwick when Wasim Akram, then Pakistan captain, made his debut in front of 3,000 spectators. He was at the non-striker's end when Akram delivered the ball which left team-mate Robert Fenton with a broken jaw.

"I spent a week with the bowling machine at Edgbaston cranked up to 90mph to give myself a chance," Cox recalls. "But nothing compared to facing him in real life – he came round the wicket from behind the umpire often with the ball covered up by his right

hand in the run up so you couldn't detect which way it would swing. It was a guessing game."

"He then resorted to bouncing people. Robert had his jaw broken and I think his toe as well. It was an honour to be out there."

Cox counts his match-saving 44 not out, compiled over more than 40 overs in the middle, as among his most memorable innings, along with an unbeaten 55 for the league select XI against a Warwickshire attack featuring Allan Donald, Gladstone Small and Tim Munton.

He's had some illustrious team-mates too. Cox regards former Zimbabwe Test stars Dave Houghton and Andy Flower as the best two he ever played alongside.

Flower, Dartmouth's overseas player in 1994 and 1995, went on to manage and coach England.

"Andy was one of the great innovators," says Cox. "I have never known a player prepared to be so hard on themselves. He was relentless in his pursuit of success. I've been lucky to have played alongside some fantastic cricketers. There are simply too many to mention, so many unsung heroes."

Glorious

"The late 1980s and early 1990s, in particular, was a glorious time to be involved in Birmingham League cricket. The competition was fierce but played in the right manner. You had so many good overseas players and county players."

It isn't merely on the field Cox has left an impression. His career off the field would make a decent book in itself.

Currently the head of West Midlands region for the ECB, a role in which he oversees five county boards, his previous jobs have included academy manager at Warwickshire, general manager of Shropshire, while he even had a stint as chief executive of the Netherlands cricket.

"There's an old saying if you can find a job which is your hobby, you'll never work a day in your life," adds Cox. "I guess that sums it up for me."

"My current job with the ECB is based at Edgbaston. I still drive in through the gates every morning with the same enthusiasm I had as a seven-year-old boy, walking through them for the first time. I'm still in awe of the place."

Ashes hero Vaughan in sporting dinner

ASHES winning former England captain Michael Vaughan and ex-chairman of selectors Geoff Miller are special guests at a sportsman's dinner in Walsall next month.

Former Yorkshire batsman Vaughan, aged 43, captained England in 51 of his 82 Tests and masterminded the 2005 Ashes win, the first since 1986/87. He scored 5,719 Test runs at an average of more than 41, scoring 18 100s and the same number of half-centuries, before retiring through injury in 1999. He is now a pundit and has also taken part in Strictly Come Dancing.

Miller, who played first class cricket for Derbyshire and Essex, played 34 Tests for England before becoming a national selector.

The two will be appearing in a fundraiser on behalf of Rushall at Walsall's Banks's Stadium on Thursday, October 11.

Tickets are £45 each or £425 for a table of 10 and are available from Route 39 on 01902 244220.

Neal aims to bounce back at Silverstone

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal has it all to do next weekend with his hopes of a fourth British Touring Car Championship title all but over.

Neal slipped 92 points behind series leader Colin Turkington following the latest round at Knockhill.

Hamstrung by having to carry 39kg of success ballast in both qualifying and race one, Neal lined up a frustrated 21st on the closely-contested grid before being removed from contention at mid-distance of race one by an incoming rival.

From that point, it became an exercise in damage limitation, and the three-time champion rose to 17th in race two and a points-scoring 15th in the finale. He is now ninth in the drivers' standings ahead of the remaining two outings at Silverstone (September 15/16) and Brands Hatch GP (September 29/30).

"You need a bit of luck in the BTCC, and that's clearly been lacking but we'll be lighter going to Silverstone and we will bounce back."

Sport

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Cricketer Cox bows out after fine innings

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Stylish Forde strike enough for Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE produced the perfect away performance in a 1-0 Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division Central victory at King's Lynn – but boss Gary Hackett says it could have been more convincing.

Aaron Forde's stylish strike late in the first half proved decisive at The Walks, handing Hackett the perfect response to a 6-4 defeat at Coalville Town seven days earlier.

The Glassboys had fought back with a dogged 1-1 No.9 derby draw with Hale-sowen Town in midweek, and a more complete performance in Norfolk on Saturday left the manager happier..

"We have had a good reaction to the Coalville match, working very hard and conceding just the one in the two games since," said Hackett.

"It was a thoroughly-deserved 1-0 victory and a great shift from everyone out there. There are big expectations at King's Lynn and we knew that if we could keep them quiet the fans would get on their backs. That was exactly how it turned out. You could see the frustration from the fans and players."

"They have a good squad but I know what it is like myself, when things aren't going for you everything becomes more difficult. To be fair, though, we were very polished and crisp up front. It could have been more than the one."

On Forde's contribution, Hackett added: "For someone of Aaron's ability he should probably score a few more. We let him off the leash and, I must say, his goal was top drawer."

Veteran defender grabs injury time equaliser for Yeltz

Halesowen Town 1 St Neots Town 1 VETERAN defender Asa Charlton rescued a point for Yeltz in the final seconds of injury time to grab a point in a disappointing home performance that lacked invention.

It was the side from Cambridgeshire who dominated the first half with Hale-sowen creating only one chance.

Charlton cleared off the line in the tenth minute and 13th minute corner was somehow cleared. Dion Semble-Ferris' low shot in the 18th minute was kept out by Platt. But Halesowen did go close to opening the scoring when Lee Hughes' 33rd minute shot was sliced against his own cross-bar by Harry O'Malley with Ahmed Ali blazing the rebound high over. The Saints deservedly went ahead after 58 minutes when Claudio Ofusa's left-wing cross sailed straight into the top corner.

The game seemed to be drifting to a grim home defeat after James Roberts hit the post in the 80th minute. But in added time Charlton rose highest at the far post to head home an unlikely equaliser from a corner.

Stourbridge in winner-takes-all clash

STOURBRIDGE could lift the Birmingham League division three title after the long-time leaders lost by four wickets to Pelsall. The crown will go to whoever wins the battle of the top two, Stourbridge or Rugby, at Webb Ellis Road on Saturday.

Pelsall's Todd Henderson took 3-32 as Stourbridge were routed for 75 but in reply were made to work hard for their win by Dan Such, who took 5-30 as Pelsall lost six wickets before they reached their target.

Meanwhile, Rugby cruised to a 132-run win over Milford Hall.

Rugby require 10 points from their last two matches to ensure survival from the Birmingham League Division One. Kidderminster were promoted to the Premier and look likely to be joined by Bridgnorth.

Opener Steve Leach (98) and Jack Edwards (48) gave the Shifnal innings a great start against Himley with a partnership of 106 providing the platform for a final total of 276-8. Stuart Wedge

took 4-39 for Himley, given a flying start by Oliver Westbury (60) and Greg Wright (40) with a 105 opening stand. Callum Lea top scored with 66 but they finished six runs short on 270-8.

Wolverhampton look destined for relegation from the Premier after a morale-sapping defeat to West Bromwich Dartmouth. Kadeer Ali hit 65 in a Dartmouth total of 215 with his Staffs teammate Zen Malik spinning his way to 5-40 for Wolverhampton. Ali took 4-27 and Sultan Afzal took 3-30 as Wolverhampton were dismissed for 118.

HALES HOPES FIZZLE OUT

HALESOWEN'S promotion chances all but disappeared with a 58-run home defeat to Barnards Green.

Skipper Ryan Tongue scored a superb unbeaten 135 from 146 balls for the victors.

Charlie Hartley took three for 64 as Barnards Green reached 241 for seven at the close. Despite 44 from Jamie Harris and 41 from Alexei Kervezee, Hale-sowen fell well short on 183 all out with four for 39 for Mahaaz Ahmed and three for 16 from Raheem Edavalath.

Frustrated captain Kervezee said: "We probably let them get 20 too many, which has been a little bit of the story of our season. When bowling first and then when chasing down the total, you always need to get off to a solid start and build the reply around someone who goes on and gets 80 plus. We didn't manage to do that and came up short."

Survival

"In the last two games we are playing Wellington and Himley and we simply have to finish off with a flourish."

"They are both fighting for survival and will want to win badly and we will be looking to see who wants to win badly for our club as well."

In the second team game at Barnet Green the opposition posted 313-5 with only leg spinner Archie Reeves (3-34) able to put the brakes on the opposition batsmen.

In reply Tom Williams (65) and Jack Roberson (68) set up a base to win the game but in the end fell 49 runs short with eight overs remaining, leaving them sixth in the table.

The third and fourth teams both had comfortable wins over Himley in the Worcestershire Cricket League. The third team remain in the hunt for the title whilst the fourth team are boosted into mid-table with two games to go thanks to Ritheek Sirpal (3-21) followed by Amardeep Singh (42), Haseeb Arif (38*) and Sam Preece (32*) knocking off Himley's 112 all out.

Pair race towards another title



Martyn Siviter, left, and Pete Wright, right, with sponsors from TAG Speed Motorsport Ltd

ANOTHER double class win and a 10th place finish overall – even a return to Oulton Park for the first time in two years could not stop Double Two Racing seemingly riding their way to another title.

The Black Country pairing of Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter made the most of a bumpy Cheshire track during qualifying to set themselves up for the win. Siviter went out first, before race partner Wright, from Tividale put the team first in Club 600 and National class and 11th overall. A lap of 1:47.890 was the fastest time on a 600cc bike all weekend.

Wright went out again and moved up to fifth, then with consistent laps of 1:48, the team slotted into first in the Club 600 and national classes but began hitting traffic, losing time. The Perpetua team and rivals sliced their way through before the 'limited adhesion' flags came out due to light rain.

A slick pit stop sent Siviter out but the team had to contend with arm pump. The transponder was swapped back to Martyn's bike and he brought it home.

Meanwhile Chris Ashfield, 24, from Kinver, is closing in on the Minitwins class title.

Welborn in running for repeat show

JASON Welborn is confident of 'repeat' rather than 'revenge' ahead of his eagerly-awaited British Middleweight Title rematch with Tommy Langford this weekend.

Welborn outgunned Langford in a British Boxing Board of Control nominated Fight of the Year contender back in May at Walsall Town Hall. Langford went in to that first bout as champion and clear favourite with Welborn out at 7/1 with the bookies. Those odds were turned on their head though as the WBC International Silver Champion recorded a deserved split-decision victory.

Welborn v Langford II takes place on the undercard of Amir Khan versus Samuel Vargas at the Arena Birmingham, live on Sky Sports on Saturday.

It's a fight that threatens to steal the show and 32-year-old Welborn, from Rowley Regis, is in confident mood.

"I am feeling brilliant and I can't wait to get back in there," he told bcb-promotions.com.

"It was one of those fights where I wanted to do again, so to be able to do so live on Sky Sports, in a big arena, is perfect for us both."

As well as Khan versus Vargas and Welborn v Langford II, there is a packed undercard this weekend.

Ryan Kelly defends the Midlands Area Super-Welterweight title he won in May against unbeaten Dordon man Kelcie Ball, Stourbridge banger Sam Eggington and Super-Bantamweight star Gamal Yafai also appear on the bill.

Carling kit deal to refresh Rangers

A QUARTET of football teams have received new strips as part of a sponsorship deal.

Black Country Rangers, Fusion, Ladies and Veterans – all under the Black Country FC banner – have been provided with fresh kits by Carling.

Wolverhampton Sunday League Division Four outfit Fusion were set up in 2015 and welcome LGBT players.

Rangers play in the West Midlands Premier and sit top of the table after six games. The ladies are in the Staffordshire Girls and Ladies League, and the Veterans in the Staffordshire Veterans League.

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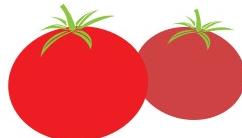
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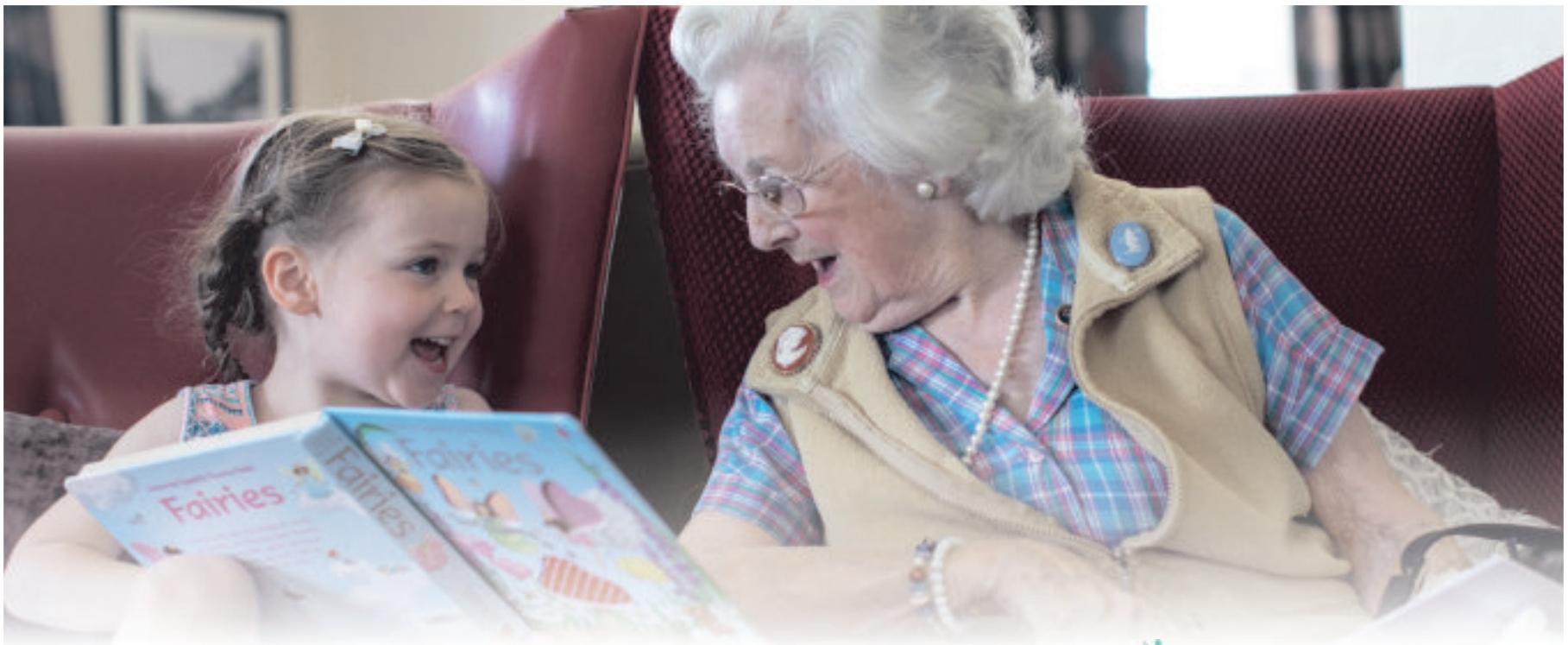
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Gower Gardens Care Home Harvest Festival



Tuesday 2nd October at 12pm - 3pm

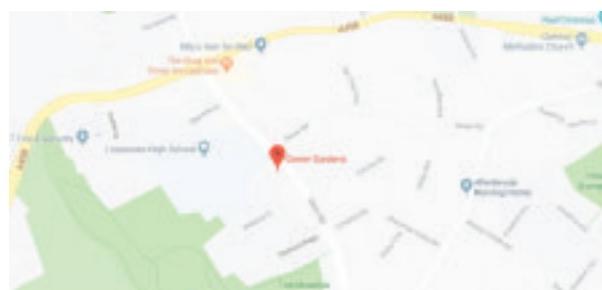


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